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AID Atlanta reconsiders annual AIDS Walk

Agency seeks new producer, possible alternatives to walk

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GAY GAMES: Atlanta may get second chance at hosting sports event. **Page 4**

REAGAN'S RECORD: CBS miniseries reignites debate over former president's AIDS policies. **Page 11**

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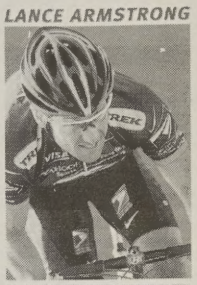

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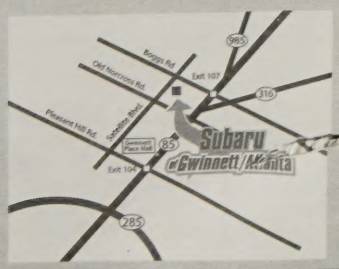

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local news

Future uncertain for AIDS Walk Atlanta

AID Atlanta looking for new producer for walk, considering other fund-raisers instead

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

The AIDS Walk has been a popular Atlanta event since its inception in 1991, but funds raised declined after hitting a high of $1.4 million in 2000.

Thirteen years after Atlanta's first AIDS Walk stepped off from Piedmont Park, the event's future was put in limbo this week when AID Atlanta officials suggested they will consider other options for major fund-raisers.

"We want to let creative minds give us ideas. We are not wedded to anything," said Kim Anderson, AID Atlanta executive director.

AID Atlanta, the walk's sponsor and lead beneficiary, announced Nov. 10 it would seek bid proposals until Dec. 19 for a new producer for the event, as well as "discuss different ideas, not necessarily just an AIDS Walk."

"We are just stepping back to objectively assess the best way for us to raise funds and raise awareness at the same time," Anderson said.

AID Atlanta's announcement comes after three years of reduced AIDS Walk proceeds, but Anderson insisted the group isn't "disappointed" with the results.

The decision means AID Atlanta isn't renewing its contract with MZA Events, the for-profit company that AID Atlanta paid to produce the walk for 10 of its 13 years. MZA receives a fee of $95,000 for the walk, plus expenses.

"They understand it is a business decision," Anderson said, noting MZA Events "has done a good job" and is welcome to submit a new bid to produce the event.

But Craig Miller, MZA Events president and CEO, said "the time is right" for AID Atlanta and MZA "to pursue separate paths" in the fight against HIV.

"For some time now, I have been an outspoken advocate within AID Atlanta for the agency to become more ambitious and less passive in its approach to confronting the growing HIV epidemic," Miller said in a written statement issued in response to questions from Southern Voice.

Miller criticized AID Atlanta for not taking "bold steps to improve the expense ratio of all of its fund-raising events" and said the group needs to set "higher standards and expectations" and "dramatically increase and innovate their outreach to youth of color and to gay youth of all colors."

But reevaluating the AIDS Walk is part of AID Atlanta's commitment to "make sure we are doing things in the most efficient, effective way possible," according to Anderson.

"This is not a question of whether we believe in the walk or question MZA," she said. "They have done a good job for us, but it is the right business thing for us to do."

Walk funds flat since 2001

AID Atlanta produced the first AIDS walk in Atlanta independently in 1991. Dubbed "From All Walks of Life," it featured a concert by Elton John and Indigo Girls, and was an instant success.

AID Atlanta produced the event again in 1992, then hired MZA Events to produce the 1993 and 1994 walks, before dumping the company to produce the 1995 walk on its own.

Expenses for the 1995 walk dropped 9 percent from the walk a year earlier produced by MZA, but net returns for the beneficiaries dropped 26 percent, AID Atlanta officials said at the time.

AID Atlanta then invited MZA Events back to produce the 1996 AIDS Walk. That walk grossed over $1 million for the first time, with a 34.5 percent increase in net. AID Atlanta retained MZA Events to produce each walk after that.

The 2000 AIDS Walk reached a fund-raising high of $1.4 million, with 42 percent going to expenses. But the 2001 AIDS Walk, held a month after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, raised only $1.1 million, with 69 percent going to expenses.

"We were relieved that we did even that well. It was a brutal time to stage a mass participatory event," Miller said then.

AIDS Walk organizers cut expenses from $760,000 in 2000 to $640,000 this year, but funds raised never rebounded.

The 2002 walk raised $1.12 million, with almost 59 percent going to expenses, well above the 35 percent recommended by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance.

This year's AIDS Walk, held Oct. 19, drew an estimated 12,000 walkers but raised not quite $1.13 million, with 57 cents of every dollar going to expenses.

"The decline in revenue is not attributed to anything, I believe, other than the economy," Anderson said. "But we need to ask what is the best way to go forward, and to do that, we have to step back and assess everything with a clean sheet of paper."

'Not necessarily just an AIDS Walk'

In the "Request for Proposals" announced this week, AID Atlanta officials described the AIDS Walk as "the largest and most successful AIDS fund-raising and community awareness event in the Southeast," but said they would also accept proposals for "other ideas that would raise similar net funds."

"Production companies and event planners around the city and country have done a host a things to help non-profits raise awareness and funds — from concerts to marathons to bike-a-thons," Anderson said.

AID Atlanta organizes the AIDS Walk and receives the bulk of the proceeds. Other benefiting organizations participate at no cost to them, getting to keep only the funds their individual teams raise.

Some 16 local AIDS service organizations benefited from this year's walk, in addition to AID Atlanta.

Beneficiaries contacted this week said they support AID Atlanta's decision to seek proposals for other producers, but they want the AIDS Walk to continue.

"I think it is a good event that has a following and should continue," said Stephen Woods, executive director of Project Open Hand, a meal service that has benefited from the AIDS Walk since its inception.

Project Open Hand's team raised about $2,000 this year, Woods said.

Atlanta-based National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities became an AIDS Walk beneficiary for the first time in 2003, raising close to $3,000 after several years of petitioning to be included.

Connie Smith, NAESM director of social marketing, called AID Atlanta's decision to look for a new producer a "good move," but said the AIDS Walk is a "big mobilization effort" that "needs to stay."

MZA Events also produces AIDS walks in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York City and acts as a consultant for AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

Officials in two of those cities said this week they are pleased with results there and will retain MZA to produce their 2004 events.

This year's AIDS Walk New York, held May 18, raised almost $5.1 million, with $1.5 million — about 30 percent — going to expenses, according to Rob Ronstein, development manager for Gay Men's Health Crisis, the lead beneficiary there.

"We are definitely in growth mode, and we are very happy with that," Ronstein said.

The 2003 AIDS Walk San Francisco, held July 20, raised about $3.1 million, said Redge Norton, [illegible] for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. [illegible] isn't finalized, but Norton said the 2002 walk posted a 38 percent "cost of fund-raising," and she expects similar figures for this year's event.

"We are definitely pleased with MZA's work," Norton said.

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PROMISING SIGNS: Two billboards in Midtown, including a Gay.com ad located at Juniper and Fifth streets, feature male couples advertising gay personals services.
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ROSIE, OH!: Judge rules **Rosie O'Donnell** won't get damages after being sued by the publisher of her now-defunct namesake magazine.
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TACKLING FOOTBALL: Lesbian athletes, including **Dee Ember**, are leveling the playing field by joining two fledgling Atlanta women's football teams.
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local news

Atlanta hopes for new shot at Gay Games

Montreal, Federation of Gay Games split over 2006 event

By RYAN LEE

An historic fallout between the international organizers of the Gay Games and the host city for the 2006 event may give Atlanta a second shot at hosting the global sporting event in the coming years.

Atlanta's bid to host the 2006 games failed in 2001, when the Federation of Gay Games selected Montreal as the host city for Gay Games VII.

But a bitter two-year licensing dispute between the Federation and Montreal organizers ended earlier this week in a dramatic showdown at the Federation's annual meeting in Chicago.

"When we won this thing in 2001, none of us signed up on the route that has actually happened," said Mark Tewksbury, a former Olympic medallist and co-president of Montreal 2006, the group organizing the games.

"It's been a sad and difficult journey," he said.

The Federation — having endured four consecutive deficit-posting games — wanted Montreal organizers to downsize their participant and cost estimates as well as pay a $655,000 licensing fee to use the Gay Games trademark.

Montreal organizers were planning for 16,000 athletes to attend the 2006 Gay Games and worked out a budget that fell between $12.4 million and $17.1 million in Canadian currency. To avoid budget problems, the Federation wanted the number of athletes pared down to 12,000.

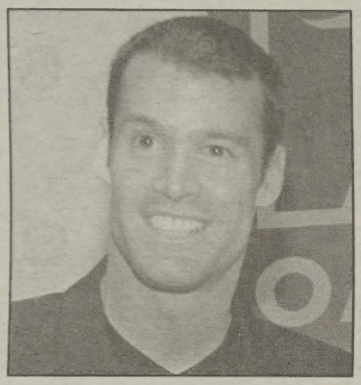
Montreal predicted more athletes and spectators would attend the 2006 games because they were being held in North America for the first time in 12 years.

Ties officially severed

Marathon negotiating sessions produced dueling proposals, and after reaching a dead end, Montreal and the Federation officially severed ties Nov. 11.

Two years into planning for Gay Games VII, Montreal organizers remain defiant about still hosting an international sports and cultural festival in 2006 without the official Gay Games banner. Organizers initially hinted they might sue the Federation and any city that hosted the Gay Games in 2006.

After the Federation of Gay Games and Montreal ceased negotiations for the 2006 event, Atlanta Games Inc., led by co-chairs **Margie Archer** and **Ray Hom**, may soon have another shot at hosting the Gay Games. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)



Montreal 2006 President **Mark Tewksbury** said his organization will continue plans for a global sporting event in his city in 2006, despite not reaching an agreement to host the official Gay Games.

"I think it's curious that Montreal feels so threatened by the Federation that they [would sue]," said Jake Stafford, a spokesperson for the Federation. "It's just continuing this attitude Montreal has had all along of the Federation as their enemy instead of their partner."

The Federation is uncertain if the official quadrennial games will proceed as scheduled in 2006. The group initiated discussions about how to select a replacement host city, Stafford said.

Whether the bid process would be entirely re-opened, or if only the cities that originally vied for the 2006 games — Atlanta, Chicago and Los Angeles — would be eligible was not decided by press time.

But Atlanta organizers are primed to step in for Montreal and host the Gay Games, provided the Federation's proposed contract is acceptable, said Margie Archer, co-chair of Atlanta Games Inc., the group behind the original bid.

"We still have Atlanta Games Inc., we still have our existing board and we still have very good contacts with the convention bureau," Archer said. "We're interested and just waiting to see what happens."

Battle for control

The public divorce between Montreal organizers and the Federation this week capped two years of bickering between the two sides over how big the Gay Games should be and who should control it.

Financial shortcomings and poor attendance plagued both of the last two Gay Games — Amsterdam in 1998 and Sydney, Australia, in 2002. With its name on the line, the Federation wanted to have oversight of planning the event, Stafford said.

But since Montreal organizers were paying more than $500,00 to use the Federation's brand — and received no financial or technical support from the Federation — they should have the final say over the event's details, Tewksbury said.

On Nov. 8, Tewksbury and other Montreal leaders met with three representatives from the Federation in a 15-hour private session that lasted until the next morning.

Dissatisfied with the lack of progress, Montreal organizers thought they'd gain more sympathy by presenting their case to the Federation's full board of directors Nov. 10, Tewksbury said.

"But at the meeting of the full board, we answered nine questions in an all day meeting," Tewksbury said. "We were not allowed to ask any questions; we were not allowed to make any statements. Our entire [portion of the meeting] took no more than 12 or 15 minutes."

Stafford disputed many of Tewksbury's claims, including that Montreal leaders were allowed to speak for only 15 minutes.

After the meeting Monday, the Federation announced a Wednesday deadline for Montreal to accept its latest proposal — which included compromises but still granted the Federation final authority over planning — or the Federation would cease negotiations with Montreal.

"They responded [to Montreal's previous proposal] with a final offer, which they knew very well we would reject," Tewksbury said. "The real sticking point was the financial control, and at the end of the day, we had to keep financial control in Montreal."

Games headed to Atlanta?

It is not known when a city will be chosen to replace Montreal at the official Federation event, but the Federation knows Atlanta remains interested, Atlanta Games' Archer said.

"I have already been in discussions with both of the presidents of the [Federation], and we have told them that we are interested in the opportunity, but we haven't seen the contract they would want us to sign yet," Archer said.

In a statement released Nov. 11, Montreal organizers indicated they would consider taking legal action against the Federation and any city that hosted the Gay Games in 2006. But organizers meant they would be prepared to fight any legal battles that may surround Montreal hosting a separate sporting event in 2006, Tewksbury said.

There are "way too many variables" — such as when the event would take place and the terms of a licensing contract — to know whether Atlanta could host the next Gay Games, Archer said.

Atlanta's original bid to host the 2006 Gay Games included more than 100 volunteers and approximated production costs at $300,000, Archer said at the time.

The effort drew support from then-Mayor Bill Campbell, the Atlanta City Council and the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau. The bid attracted major corporate sponsors including Delta Airlines, the Coca-Cola Company, Coors Brewing Company and Beaulieu Vineyard.

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local news

Two billboards in Midtown, including this Gay.com ad located on the corner of Juniper and Fifth streets, feature images of male couples advertising gay personals services. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Gay billboards draw low-key reaction in Midtown

Sexually suggestive images, slogans don't spark protests

By RYAN LEE

Two billboards currently looming over Atlanta's heavily gay Midtown neighborhood feature shirtless men advertising gay personals services, marking "a huge new frontier" in how gay businesses market their products, according to Jeff Titterton, vice president for member sales and marketing for PlanetOut Partners.

PlanetOut Partners owns Gay.com, a Web site advertised on one of the billboards.

"We've been really excited about doing this because for the first time we're on the streets and reaching out," Titterton said. "We've gotten exclusively positive feedback from the gay public and observed an increase in our traffic because of that."

The Gay.com billboard is located on the southeast corner of Juniper and Fifth streets.

A few blocks away, at the corner of Peachtree and Seventh streets, phone line Interactive Male also uses the image of two smiling shirtless men to draw gay men to its services.

Community reaction to the billboards was markedly different from reaction to other billboards that featured either gay or sexually suggestive imagery.

Earlier this year, Adams Outdoor Advertising rejected a billboard proposal from a gay youth group in Charlotte, N.C., because the ad contained the phrase, "It's okay to be gay."

Just last month, Atlanta radio station 96 Rock was pressured into taking down a billboard that featured a picture of Madonna and Britney Spears' infamous MTV Video Awards kiss. The billboard was located in Marietta along Interstate 75, and contained the phrase, "Their music sucks, but we'd do 'em."

Responding to about 15 complaints — most focused on the image of two women kissing — and a wave of media coverage, Clear Channel Communications, which owns 96 Rock, pulled the billboard.

"It's all about location, location, location," said Scott Baker, the gay director of marketing for Clear Channel. Gay images are far less shocking in Midtown than Marietta, he said.

Cliff Altekruse, president of the Midtown Neighbors' Association, agreed.

"By and large, I think the reaction would be pretty understated to the billboards," Altekruse said. "I can't think of anyone in the community who would object, but I can't imagine there isn't anyone out there who would object."

Representatives from Interactive Male and Viacom — which owns the billboard on Peachtree Street — did not return calls by press time about whether they received any feedback.

The Gay.com billboards run in predominantly gay areas in 15 major markets across the country and receive limited protests from the general public, Titterton said. The most substantial protests to the ads came from teens putting X's or stickers over the models' eyes when the ads appear on buses or at bus shelters, he said.

But representatives from Clear Channel Outdoor in Atlanta were initially unwilling to run the ads, Titterton said.

"What we've found is that we are able to work with them and educate them that these ads are no different from straight people looking at each other in bathing suits," he said.

Representatives from Clear Channel Outdoor could not be reached for comment by press time.

Decisions about whether ads on billboards conform to community standards are generally made by the company that owns the billboard, according to Nancy Fletcher, president and CEO of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America.

The number of protests against billboards is relatively small compared to the number of new billboards posted around the country each month, she said.

JIM Ellis
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local news

Vigil honors transgender victims of violence

Atlanta ranks third on list of most trans killings, activists say

By RYAN LEE

In 2001 they mourned 19. Last year, 25.

But when an expected crowd of 80 gathers for the 4th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Thursday, they are set to mourn 37 people who were killed in 2003 because of anti-transgender prejudice — the most since activists began tracking transgender deaths in 1998.

Held on the steps on the Georgia State Capitol in downtown Atlanta, the Day of Remembrance is part vigil, part call-to-action, said Gwen Smith, founder of the national event.

"We are there to memorialize those we lost and pay respect to them," Smith said. "In doing so, and in living our lives, we're trying to send the message that this kind of killing is not OK and is not acceptable."

Atlanta joins more than 80 cities in the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe holding events for the Day of Remembrance this year.

Atlanta is ranked third globally on activists' lists of cities with the most transgender killings, with 10 recorded, according to Dana Brown-Owings, director of operations for Atlanta-based Trans=Action.

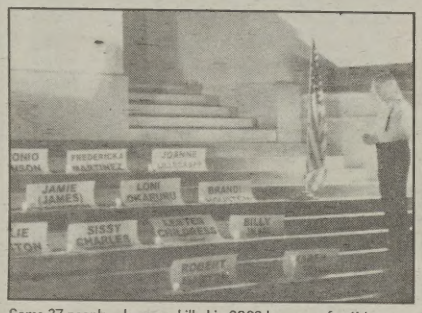
Some 28 people were killed in New York City because of transgender bias, and 11 were killed in Washington, D.C., including three people murdered in July, she said.

Activists rank California, New York and Texas as the most deadly states for transgendered people since 1998, with 40, 33 and 15 deaths, respectively. Georgia is ranked fourth among states with 14 deaths, even without an anti-transgender killing since Robert Martin of Ashburn was beaten to death in early 2001.

At the Nov. 20 service, the names of each of the 37 people killed in 2003 are scheduled to be read aloud with the ring of a bell after each name, said Monica Helms, executive director of Trans=Action.

The event — which was accompanied by rain last year — takes place regardless of weather, Helms stressed. Plans are in place to protect attendees from any rain, she said.

Local religious leaders and politicians are expected to attend the service and deliver speeches, Brown-Owings said. The deputy chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Denise Majette (D-Ga.) is expected, as is Majette herself if Congress' voting schedule permits, her office confirmed.



Some 37 people who were killed in 2003 because of anti-transgender prejudice are set for honors Nov. 20 when participants gather for the 4th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance on the steps of the state capitol. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Atlanta City Council President Cathy Woolard recognized the three previous Day of Remembrance services with proclamations, and she is expected to issue one this year once paperwork from organizers is received, said Allison Wagner, Woolard's communications director.

Brandie Coleman and Nireah Johnson are two of the names scheduled to be invoked Thursday. Johnson — a male-to-female transgendered 17-year-old — and her friend Coleman, 18, were sitting in an SUV in July when a male suspect shot them each in the head at point-blank range.

The SUV they were in was set on fire, and both bodies were burned beyond recognition. A suspect was apprehended in connection with the incident, which occurred in Indianapolis, and is preparing to stand trial, Smith said.

But a majority of the cases included in the Day of Remembrance roster remain unsolved.

"It's usually one of the lowest priority murders [among police agencies] that I've heard of," Helms said. "And on top of that, we're not even seeing a fraction of what is probably happening out there."

The Transgender Day of Remembrance began in 1999 following the November 1998 murder of Rita Hester in Allston, Calif. Hester, a transgendered woman, was found inside her apartment after being stabbed multiple times.

No one has been arrested in her death.

MORE INFO

Transgender Day of Remembrance
Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
Georgia State Capitol Building
206 Washington St.
www.rememberingourdead.com

local news

Judges weigh Backstreet's 'staged death'

Gay 24-hour club remains open while federal court hears appeal to change in city law

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

In a federal courtroom Nov. 6, a three-judge panel listened as attorney Jackson Cook asked for more time to keep gay nightclub Backstreet immune from a 2001 city ordinance that would force 24-hour clubs to close by 4 a.m. or earlier.

"We are saying that it has been done improperly," Cook told the panel of judges from the United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit. "We want a hearing."

Cook argued that Backstreet and the other private clubs he represents deserve time and compensation for the millions of dollars the clubs invested over decades to develop flourishing businesses, which up until 2001 were allowed to operate as 24-hour establishments under "grandfather clauses."

But Backstreet does not need a hearing or more time, because the club had three months of public comment period in 2001 to express concern before the law was passed, argued Roger Bhandari, Atlanta assistant city attorney.

"Nowhere in the city code does it state that liquor laws will remain static," Bhandari said at the hearing. "There is no doubt that when they apply for a liquor license, they will receive a renewal hearing."

Arguments in the circuit court revealed Backstreet has operated without a liquor license for two years.

"We're still operating by the grace of God and allowance of the city," Cook told the three-judge panel.

The judges' decision in the case could take as little as a month or as long as a year, according to Cary Wiggins, another attorney for Backstreet.

Gay 24-hour club Backstreet has been embroiled in legal battles for the past two years, but may be nearing the end of its rope as federal judges laughed at the club's attorney in court, asking how long he planned to continue Backstreet's 'staged death.' (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Backstreet wants time

The city of Atlanta delayed enforcing the new private club law, which was passed in 2001 and went into effect July 1, 2003, because it is waiting for the appeals process to conclude, said Sgt. E.A. Davis, a member of the Atlanta Police Department's Licensing & Permits division.

Backstreet first sued the city of Atlanta in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in 2001, but Judge Clarence Cooper ruled in March 2003 that the city of Atlanta could enforce the 2001 law.

After Cooper's ruling, Backstreet appealed to the Eleventh Circuit Court.

During last week's hearing, the circuit court judges hinted from the bench that they viewed Backstreet's case as an attempt to buy more time for the club to remain in 24-hour operation, despite the city law that prohibits all-night clubs.

Judge Rosemary Barkett asked Cook how long he wanted to prolong Backstreet's "staged death," and Judge Paul Roney asked how much more time Backstreet wanted before enforcement of the two-year-old law.

"As much time as we can get, your honor," Cook responded.

The three circuit court judges are now reviewing the case and are expected to make a decision on whether Backstreet, the Riviera and the Crystal Palace — Cook's clients — are allowed to operate outside of Atlanta city law.

The new city law redefines private clubs, requiring them to attain federal non-profit tax status, serve meals and not exist mainly for the purpose of selling alcohol.

Private clubs that fit the new definition may serve alcohol from 9 a.m. to 4 a.m. on weekdays, 9 a.m. Saturdays until 2:55 a.m. the following day, and 24 hours on Sundays.

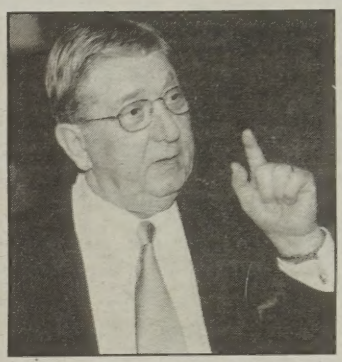
But Backstreet won't qualify as a private club under the new definition, Cook said at the hearing. Instead, Backstreet must apply for a liquor license under nightclub status. That would force the club to close business at or before 4 a.m. — the time that the club starts to do 90 percent of its business, according to Cook.

Current city law allows nightclub alcohol sales on weekdays from 9 a.m. on one day until 4 a.m. the following day and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2:55 a.m. the following day.

Bars are also banned from selling alcohol on Sundays, though restaurants and other venues can sell alcohol until midnight.

Negotiations continue in license penalty

In a separate legal battle, Backstreet lost its effort to appeal a 30-day license suspension and $9,000 fine imposed by the city of Atlanta after undercover police raids yielded illegal drug sales on the premises.



At a federal appeals court hearing, Backstreet attorney **Jackson Cook** asked judges for 'as much time as we can get' before making a decision on allowing the city of Atlanta to cut the hours of all-night clubs. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

The Georgia Supreme Court declined last month to hear Backstreet's appeal of the Fulton County Superior Court decision, Wiggins said.

But Backstreet and the city are now in the middle of negotiations to decide when the club will close for the 30 days and how it will pay its $9,000 fine, Wiggins said.

Deputy City Attorney Jerry DeLoach did not respond to interview requests by press time.

Backstreet's case against the fine and suspension was heard July 29 by Fulton County Superior Court Judge Wendy Shoob, who listened to Backstreet's claims that the police raids were biased, but she ultimately sided with the city.

"I have nothing before me that can confirm if this club was treated any differently than other nightclubs," Shoob said.

Mayor Shirley Franklin executed the license suspension and fine Jan. 29 after police reported finding cocaine and ecstasy for sale by individual patrons and nitrus oxide for sale illegally in the Backstreet gift shop during three 2001 undercover police operations.

Also in January, Franklin sent a letter to another popular gay club, the Metro, handing down the same penalty for alleged drug sales and inappropriate sexual activity.

The Metro incurred an additional $1,000 fine for failure to renew its license in 2003, bringing its penalty total to a $10,000 fine and 30-day license suspension.

An agreement was reached between the city and the Metro to serve out its 30-day closure in non-consecutive days, according to Alan Begner, one attorney for the club.

But Begner did not know the exact days of the week the bar would close or whether the Metro's fine was reduced, referring questions to Hakim Hilliard, the club's other attorney.

Hilliard, Metro owner Don Hunnewell and DeLoach did not respond to interview requests about the agreement by press time.

Sunday sales law challenged again

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

U.S. District Court Judge Charles Pannell did not rule by press time on an injunction that would allow the sale of alcohol at bars on Sundays by preventing local and state governments from enforcing the Sunday alcohol sales ban.

"I don't have to hurry on this matter," Pannell said at a Nov. 6 hearing in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Attorneys from Fulton County and the state of Georgia attended the hearing and asked the judge to dismiss the motion for the injunction, filed by attorney Glenn Zell on behalf of Fannie's Show Bar at 4401 Fulton Industrial Blvd.

"What it amounts to is everyone can sell liquor on Sundays that wants to, except bars," Zell said.

But county and state officials dispute the necessity of a new injunction, since one is already in place from a ruling made by Fulton County Superior Court Judge Marvin Arrington last February.

"We already have an injunction in place that prohibits the state and the county from enforcing the Sunday ban on liquor sales," said Brenda King Woodard, staff attorney for Fulton County.

Arrington issued the current injunction to allow Sunday sales after hearing Zell's argument against the Sunday bar ban on behalf of 10 gay bars.

But the Georgia Supreme Court reversed Arrington's ruling in favor of the gay bars in October, and declared Nov. 10 that it would not rehear the case. The decision means Arrington's injunction will be dissolved, and a new injunction by Pannell is necessary for bars to operate on Sunday, Zell said.

A decision by Pannell is expected within the week, Zell said.

The Georgia law that prohibits Sunday alcohol sales includes a variety of exceptions, including businesses that make 50 percent of their revenue from food sales, bowling alleys, sports venues as well as hotels and motels.

The Georgia Supreme Court ruled Oct. 6 that bars cannot serve alcohol on Sundays, but restaurants can because restaurants "would attract families and others to go out for meals on Sunday, thereby contributing to the legislative goal of enhancing the recreational atmosphere of that day."

national news

Anonymous senator blocks general's promotion

Republicans retaliate by delaying 1,100 military promotions

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — Promotions for 1,100 U.S. military officers are being blocked because of a dispute in the Senate over the proposed promotion of an Army general accused by gay groups of ignoring harassment on a base where a fatal beating occurred in 1999.

The dispute in the Senate began last week when an unnamed Democratic senator placed a hold on a vote to approve President Bush's nomination of Maj. Gen. Robert T. Clark to become lieutenant general and commander of the Fifth Army.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which assists gays in the military, said the Democratic senator acted on behalf of gay groups and the parents of the slain soldier, who oppose Clark's promotion. SLDN and other gay groups criticize Clark as failing to take steps to curtail anti-gay harassment at Fort Campbell, Ky., where he served as commander.

An unidentified Republican senator responded to the hold on Clark's nomination by placing a blanket hold on all military promotions pending on the Senate floor in an apparent act of retaliation, according to the Associated Press.

Gay activists blame Maj. Gen. **Robert T. Clark** for contributing to a homophobic atmosphere at a base where a gay service member was killed.

Under an unwritten tradition, an individual senator can place holds on bills or resolutions, including presidential nominations and promotions. Experts on Senate procedures say the Senate majority leader has the discretion of accepting or rejecting such a hold. But under longstanding Senate tradition, the majority leader almost always agrees to a request to place a hold.

Last month, the Senate Armed Services Committee approved promotions for 1,100 military officers shortly before it approved Clark's promotion in a closed meeting. A clerk with the committee said the names of another 3,800 military officers were under review and would soon be sent to the Senate floor for final approval.

A spokesperson for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) did not return a call by press time. Sara Feinberg, a spokesperson for Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), said Daschle doesn't know the identities of either senator who reportedly placed holds on the promotions.

The Senate Armed Services Committee voted to approve Clark's promotion on Oct. 24 after delaying action on the nomination for about a year. Democratic senators on the committee reportedly persuaded some of their Republican colleagues to agree to hold off based on his handling of anti-gay harassment at Fort Campbell.

Gay groups have said Clark contributed to an atmosphere that led to the 1999 gay-bashing death of Pfc. Barry Winchell, 21. A fellow soldier, Pvt. Calvin Glover, was sentenced to life in prison for beating Winchell to death with a baseball bat as Winchell slept. A second solder, Spc. Justin Fisher, who was accused of instigating the attack, was sentenced to 12 and half years in prison for lying to investigators.

An Army investigation found that anti-gay sentiment existed in Winchell's unit prior to the attack. But the Army's inspector general concluded that Clark and his subordinates acted properly in carrying out the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which allows gays to serve in the military as long as they conceal their sexual orientation.

SLDN, the Human Rights Campaign and other gay groups have lobbied the Senate to reject Clark's promotion, but Winchell's mother and stepfather, Patricia and Wally Kutteles, are widely credited with persuading senators to take a serious look at Clark's qualifications.

Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, said the efforts to oppose the Clark promotion had an important impact on the military.

"Whether or not Clark is approved, they have achieved a tremendous victory," Belkin said. "It sends a strong message to all military leaders that if anti-gay violence takes place under their command and they don't do something to stop it, their promotions will be held up."

The decision by the anonymous Democratic senator to place a hold on Clark's promotion came as a surprise to gay activists, who expected the full Senate to quickly approve the Clark nomination.

SLDN spokesperson Steve Ralls said the group's sources on Capitol Hill indicated some action on the Clark nomination could happen late this week if the senator in question agrees to relinquish the hold.

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national news

New Orleans mayor's gay advisory panel resigns

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — All seven members of Mayor Ray Nagin's advisory committee on gay issues resigned last week after the mayor endorsed conservative Republican Bobby Jindal for governor. The Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Issues called the endorsement "unconscionable and incomprehensible." "Mr. Jindal has ignored numerous requests over the past three months to meet with representatives of our community to discuss issues, including economic development and civil rights," the panel's chair, Randal M. Beach, said in a letter. The committee, appointed by the mayor, advises the mayor on how proposed city and state legislation would affect gays. Jindal, who faces a Nov. 15 runoff against Democrat Kathleen Blanco, has said he supports equal rights for gays. He said the statewide gay group Louisiana League for Equality is among dozens, even hundreds, of special interest groups with whom he has not had time to meet. Blanco has met with the Louisiana League for Equality. Both Blanco and Jindal have said they oppose discrimination against gays but do not believe a new anti-bias law is necessary.

New Orleans Mayor **Ray Nagin** (right), a Democrat, endorsed GOP gubernatorial candidate **Bobby Jindal** last week, prompting the resignations from the mayor's advisory panel on gay issues. (Photo by Ted Jackson/AP)

N.J. judge upholds suit that seeks to block military recruiting on campus

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A federal judge rejected a Defense Department bid to dismiss a lawsuit that seeks to prevent the government from withholding financial aid to colleges that refuse to allow military recruiters on campus. But while allowing the challenge to continue, U.S. District Judge John C. Lifland refused to issue a preliminary injunction that would immediately bar the government from enforcing the 1996 Solomon Amendment, which directed the withholding of funds. Lifland also gave little support to a law school coalition's assertion that the law trampled its members' First Amendment rights. He ruled that the Solomon Amendment was a valid use of Congress' spending power and obligation to raise military forces, and that it outweighed free speech issues because it was aimed at compelling conduct, not expression. The lawsuit claims that giving access to recruiters would violate anti-bias policies at their institutions because the military discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation by prohibiting openly gay men and women in the ranks.

Ky. council's vote rescinds domestic partner benefits

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — The city's Urban County Council voted 8-4 last week to deny the extension of health insurance coverage to city employees' domestic partners, either same sex or opposite sex. Lexington Mayor Teresa Ann Isaac, who supports domestic partner benefits, could veto the council's move and told council members after the vote that she would let them know her plans in 10 days. Isaac introduced the health plan change in the spring, angering Urban County Council members who were upset she did not notify them of her plans. In June, the council enacted a three-month moratorium on offering such benefits, and in July, Isaac vetoed the moratorium. But the council overrode her veto. Those voting against domestic partner benefits have raised issues of money and morality, and complained about the way Isaac handled the issue.

Naval Academy graduates plan gay alumni chapter

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — While at the Naval Academy in the late '80s, Jeff Petrie thought he was the only gay cadet at the school. Homophobia was rife, and he took pains to hide his sexual orientation. "I kept my secret. I lived a double life in exchange for the opportunity to serve," he said. Now, Petrie is leading an effort to establish an official gay and lesbian chapter of the school's alumni association, in what would be a first for any U.S. service academy. The chapter's 29 members-to-be, none of whom still serve in the military, want to support gay midshipmen still bound by the Department of Defense's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, Petrie said. "Just by existing, I think we will be able to help current midshipmen by showing them we have been through it successfully, and if that's what they want to do, they can do it too," said Petrie. A 1989 graduate, Petrie said he planned to file an application with the academy's alumni association this week.

Neb. judge allows lawsuit against same-sex marriage ban

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A federal judge refused to dismiss a lawsuit challenging Nebraska's one-of-a-kind ban on same-sex marriages. U.S. District Judge Joseph Bataillon on Monday refused a request by the State of Nebraska to dismiss the lawsuit, which was filed in April by the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups. The lawsuit says the ban, which was approved by voters in 2000 and added to the Nebraska Constitution the next year, violates the rights of gay and lesbian couples. Thirty-four states have so-called "Defense of Marriage" laws, but Nebraska's ban is the only one that prohibits same-sex couples from enjoying many of the legal protections that heterosexual couples enjoy. The constitutional amendment, known as Initiative 416, passed with 70 percent of the vote. It prevents gays who work for the state or the University of Nebraska system from sharing health insurance and other benefits with their partners.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Reagan's AIDS record still hotly debated

Miniseries sparks battle over what president said, and when

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

AIDS activists and officials from former President Ronald Reagan's administration still passionately disagree over whether Reagan adequately addressed AIDS as leader of the country from 1981-1989, when deaths from the disease escalated to grotesque proportions.

"Gay people must never forget that Ronald Reagan was as evil to us as Hitler was to the Jews," said Larry Kramer, founder of ACT UP, an AIDS organization born in the Reagan years that touted the slogan "Silence = Death."

The debate over Reagan's AIDS policies resurfaced when the script of a two-part CBS miniseries, "The Reagans," was leaked to the New York Times, including a controversial line attributed to Reagan about people who were dying from AIDS.

"Those who live in sin shall die in sin," Reagan says in the original script, which prompted a forceful conservative backlash, ultimately resulting in the miniseries being transferred to Showtime and delayed until some time next year.

In reality, Reagan didn't utter the word "AIDS" in a public speech until 1987. By then, more than 24,000 people had died from AIDS, according to a death toll calculated by the HIV/AIDS prevention branch of the federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

"When I saw that quote, it was very jarring because it bore no resemblance to the president that I knew and worked for," said Gary Bauer, now president of American Values, a conservative advocacy group.

Bauer served in Reagan's administration for eight years, the last two as Reagan's chief domestic policy advisor.

But not everybody in Washington at that time agreed with Reagan's actions on AIDS, according to U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), a Congressional leader on AIDS funding and awareness during Reagan's terms as well as today.

"I can't respond to a fictional quote from a movie I haven't seen," Waxman said in a statement to Southern Voice. "It's no secret, though, that I and many others bitterly opposed the Reagan administration's deliberate policy of ignoring the AIDS epidemic.

"While the administration looked the other way, incalculable harm was done as thousands and thousands died and the disease spread unchecked. Those are simply the facts," Waxman said.

Reagan's inaction on AIDS probably stemmed from the fact that the overwhelming majority of people dying were gay, Waxman charged in a column published in the Washington Post in 1985.

"This is the administration whose White House director of communications, Patrick Buchanan, once argued in print that AIDS is nature's revenge on gay men," Waxman wrote. "One cannot help but wonder if the administration's approach to the epidemic comes from such open disdain for the victims."

Showtime undecided on fate of 'sin' scene'

The New York Times reported Oct. 21 on the AIDS "sin" comment attributed to Reagan in the miniseries. Soon after, CBS removed the line from the miniseries. Two weeks later, on Nov. 4, the network's parent company Viacom transferred the miniseries to CBS' sister cable network, Showtime.

The move was not in response to the outrage of conservative Reagan supporters, but because the miniseries did not "present a balanced portrayal of the Reagans for CBS and its audience," a CBS statement said.

There is no decision on whether to include the "sin" line in Showtime's final edited version of the miniseries, and network officials do not know when in 2004 the dramatized documentary will air, according to a statement from the cable channel.

"Showtime will collaborate with the filmmaker to create a final film that will be the kind of quality programming its subscribers have come to expect from the network," according to the statement.

But conservatives wishing to prevent the "smear" of Reagan and preserve an untarnished image of him are not satisfied with the Viacom switch to Showtime, said Michael Paranzino, founder of BoycottCBS.com.

"A smear is a smear, and a lie is a lie," Paranzino said in a statement on his Web site. "This is a desperate effort to save face with the fringe Left."

Paranzino did not respond to interview requests by press time.

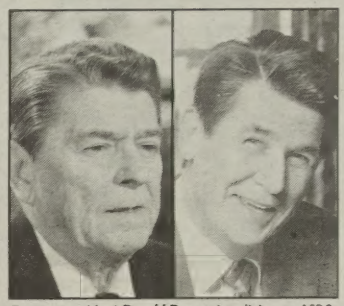
Hoping for a media counter attack, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation called for a closer examination of Reagan's AIDS policy to derail "revisionism efforts" by Reagan supporters.

The controversial "sin" line is "clearly fictionalized," but "the broader reality it attempts to convey is evident in the history of the federal government's inadequate response to the AIDS crisis under the Reagan Administration," according to a statement on the GLAAD Web site.

"This CBS program sounds, if anything, like it was too tame," Kramer said.

Reagan's inner circle: gays 'deserve' AIDS?

AIDS was first known as Gay Related Immune Deficiency because the disease seemed only to affect gay men, C. Everett Coop, Reagan's Surgeon General, noted in a 2001 speech to the Kaiser Family Foundation's National Symposium on U.S. AIDS Policy.



Former president **Ronald Reagan**'s policies on AIDS re-entered public debate because of a television miniseries in which actor **James Brolin** (right) portrays Reagan during his administration as damning gay people dying of AIDS. (Reagan photo by Dennis Cook/AP; Brolin photo by AP)

For the first five years of Coop's tenure as the nation's top physician, he was "cut off" from discussing AIDS, but he did have a "definite impression about what was going on on Pennsylvania Avenue," he said in the symposium speech.

"Domestic policy folks in the White House isolated Ronald Reagan from the whole subject of AIDS," Coop said. "And because transmission of AIDS was understood primarily in the homosexual population and in those who abused intravenous drugs, the advisors to the president took the stand, they are only getting what they justly deserve."

More than 60,000 people died from AIDS during Reagan's two terms in office, according to the CDC. Prior to 1981, only 30 people died from AIDS, CDC figures showed.

"Picture your 50 best friends, one by one, dying all around you," Kramer said. "People were dying like flies."

But Bauer, once Reagan's chief domestic policy advisor, maintained that both Coop's and the miniseries' depiction of an "evangelical" Reagan don't reflect how the president actually spoke behind closed doors at weekly White House staff lunches.

"I can tell you without hesitation that in none of those lunches when this issue came up did the president ever use language even remotely similar to that, and that language does not reflect the faith perspective that he came from," Bauer said.

"He was not an evangelical, and he had a homespun American religion that believed in God and Jesus, but his language was not steeped in biblical references," Bauer said.

But Reagan's authorized biographer, Edmund Morris, drew a direct link between Reagan's religion and the AIDS epidemic.

In "Dutch," an authorized Reagan biography, Morris writes that once when speaking of AIDS, Reagan said, "Maybe the Lord brought down this plague" because "illicit sex is against the Ten Commandments," the New York Times reported.

Reagan's first public speech addressing AIDS was at the Third International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C., in 1987. In that speech, he drew "hissing" from the crowd when he said, "Final judgment is up to God," according to a review of the history of HIV/AIDS policy by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Did 'lack of leadership' exacerbate epidemic?

Reagan signed the first "significant federal policy" dealing with AIDS into law more than a year after his first public mention of AIDS — on Nov. 4, 1988, during the final days of his presidency, according to the 1988 Congressional Quarterly Almanac.

Waxman drafted the law — 1988's Health Omnibus Programs Extension Act — which designated $1 billion in government funding for prevention programs, developed care and treatment networks, and accelerated research efforts.

But Reagan's earlier leadership slowed the efforts for funding AIDS research, drugs and education, according to the 1985 opinion article written by Waxman.

"We are losing the war against AIDS," Waxman said. "The Reagan administration's lack of leadership and commitment against this horrible disease is allowing us to lose."

For the most part, Reagan kept his involvement in the AIDS epidemic at a minimum, said Dr. Edward Brandt, who served as assistant secretary for health of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services from 1981 to 1984.

"I suspect that only one or two people know his views about it," Brandt told Southern Voice. "I was perfectly content to be able to deal with that epidemic without having to worry about the White House."

Bauer characterized attempts by "left wing" AIDS activists to place blame on Reagan as a technique to score partisan political points.

"The homosexual rights movement has been, was then, and is today very aggressive in pointing fingers at the Reagan administration and other politicians as somehow causing the disease and making it worse," Bauer said.

Bauer ran an unsuccessful bid for president in 2000, and now serves as president of American Values, an organization that supported the anti-gay national Marriage Protection Week last month.

The Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay Republican group, does not think it accurate to place blame for the escalation of the AIDS epidemic on the leadership of one man, and supports CBS' decision to move the "Reagans" miniseries.

"Sadly enough, the entire country in the early days of the AIDS crisis acted way too slowly and a part of that could have been because it was a gay-related disease," said Patrick Guerriero, president of Log Cabin Republicans.

national news

New HRC director irks Mass. Democrats

Jacques plans to hold onto seat until Jan. 1

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — Cheryl Jacques, the Massachusetts state senator named last week as the new head of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, has been praised by her supporters as a highly skilled and pragmatic politician who gets things done for her constituents.

But Jacques, a Democrat who has represented a swing district in a suburb of Boston since 1992, annoyed the state's Democratic leaders this week when she announced she would not resign her seat until Jan. 1, a move that would allow her to increase her pension under a state retirement plan.

Upon learning Jacques would leave the legislature to become executive director of the Washington-based gay rights group, Democratic leaders in the Massachusetts Senate said they hoped she would vacate her seat in early December or sooner, according to the Boston Globe.

This would allow the Democratic-controlled Senate to schedule a primary in mid-January and a general election on March 2 for her replacement — a move that would greatly benefit the Democratic candidate running to succeed her.

Cheryl Jacques attributed her delayed resignation, which has local Democratic Party leaders upset, to work that remains for her in the Massachusetts State Senate before she can take over the Human Rights Campaign. (Photo by Angela Rowlings/AP)

The Massachusetts Democratic presidential primary is being held March 2, and having an election to fill Jacques' vacant seat on the same day would ensure that many more Democratic rather than Republican voters would turn out to the polls to choose Jacques' replacement, the Globe reported.

By postponing her resignation until January, the primary and general election would be held months later, providing a level playing field for the Republican candidate.

Jacques said her decision to hold on to her seat until January was based on a desire to complete her work on behalf of her district.

"I have an awful lot to do between now and the time I finish," she said.

Although the Massachusetts legislature adjourns for the year on Dec. 19, Jacques said she would continue to work on "hundreds" of case files her office is now completing for constituents. She would also participate in informal legislature activities that the state Senate conducts between official sessions, she said.

Jacques said she did not think the timing of the election for her successor would matter because voters in her district care far more about the person running than their party affiliation.

HRC board members who selected Jacques over other contenders for the executive director's post said they quickly recognized Jacques' political abilities.

Guen Baba, co-chair of the HRC board of directors, said the board considers Jacques a highly qualified find and looks forward to the start of her tenure at HRC in early January. Baba said the flap over Jacques' successor in the Massachusetts legislature is of little concern to the board.

"That's not HRC's issue," she said. "That's inside baseball for Massachusetts."

Baba, a Los Angeles resident, served on the HRC board's selection committee during its search for a replacement for current executive director Elizabeth Birch. Birch announced last year she is stepping down at the end of 2003 after nine years of service.

Vic Basile, a former HRC executive director and board member who also served on the search committee, said the board was impressed by what everyone believed to be her leadership qualities.

Basile noted that at age 28, Jacques, a county prosecutor, won her state Senate seat by beating an entrenched Republican who served in a leadership position in a Republican-leaning district.

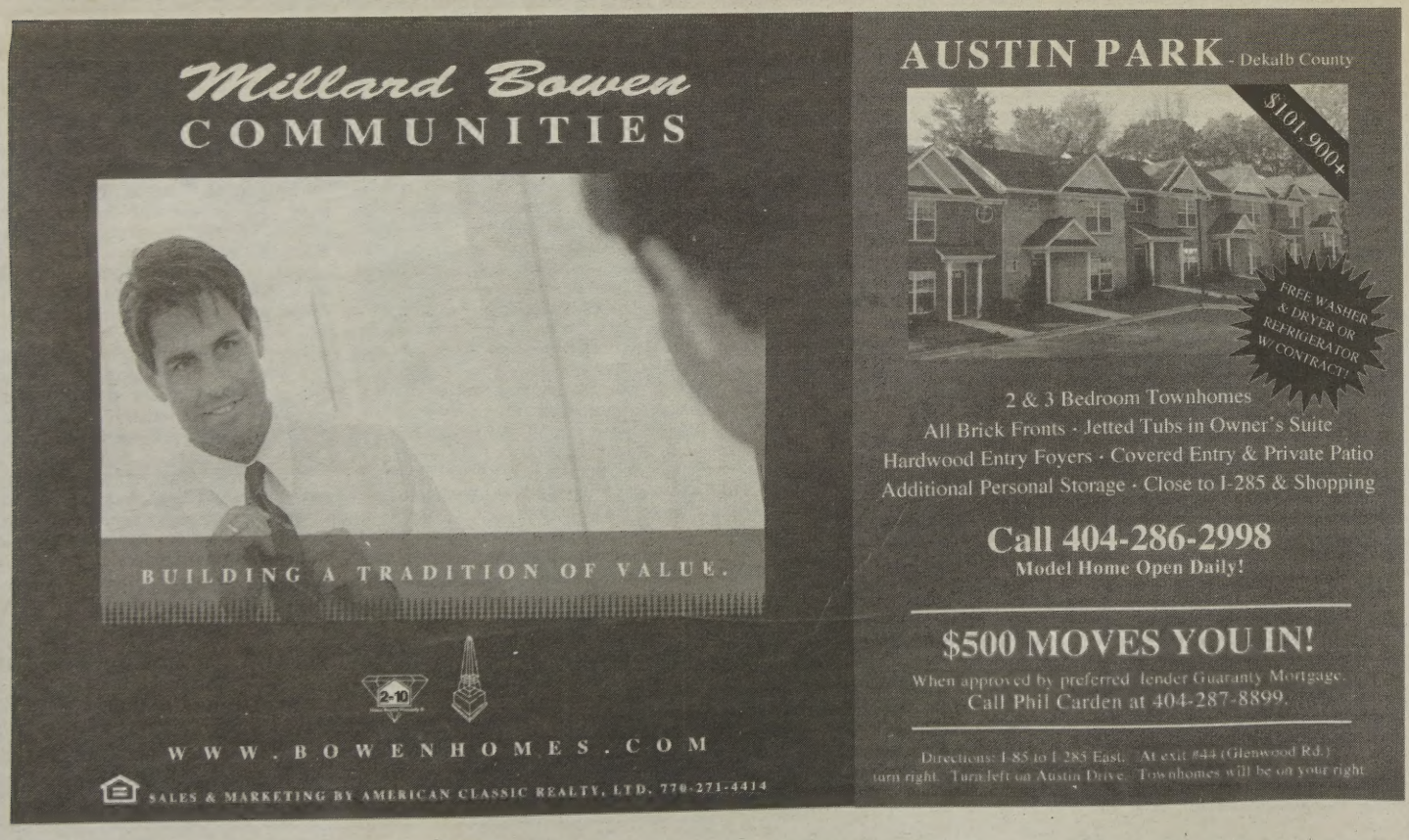
"This means she can connect with people," Basile said.

Jacques, who was expected to easily win re-election in 2006, said she chose to give up her Senate seat to take the HRC post out of a desire to help advance the cause of gay civil rights.

"I told the HRC board I wasn't looking for a job," she said. "Any other offer I would have turned down. But HRC is not a job. It's a calling. It's an opportunity of a lifetime."

Similar to HRC's Elizabeth Birch, Jacques and her partner are raising twins, a child-rearing trend that appears to growing among the nation's gay movement leaders. When asked if the HRC board sought out candidates with domestic partners raising children, instead of single gays, Basile and Baba said that was not the case.

"The family issue was not a factor one way or the other," Basile said. "We were looking to hire a leader, not a family."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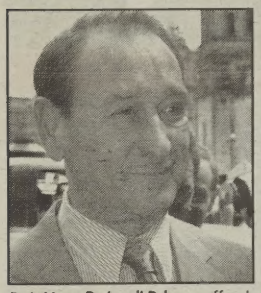
international news

Man who stabbed Paris mayor judged unfit for trial

PARIS (AP) — The man accused of stabbing and seriously wounding the mayor of Paris last year has been judged mentally unfit for trial by a team of psychiatrists, judicial officials said Nov. 7. Unless the ruling is successfully challenged by Mayor Bertrand Delanoe, it will likely lead to the dismissal of the case against Azedine Berkane, the officials said on condition of anonymity. Berkane is accused of stabbing Delanoe at a public, all-night party at City Hall in October 2002. Officials say he told investigators he attacked the openly gay mayor because he disliked homosexuals. Delanoe suffered a serious wound to the abdomen, but he recovered and returned to work a month after the attack. The ruling came after a third round of psychological examinations on Berkane. While all the examinations concluded Berkane suffered psychological problems, they differed on whether he was aware of his actions or could resist violent impulses. Two of the three examinations judged him not responsible for his actions. The report after the third round of tests called at the end of October for the "total abolition of judgment" of Berkane, the officials said. If the case is dropped, Berkane will be committed to a psychiatric hospital.



Paris Mayor **Bertrandt Delanoe** suffered a stab wound to the abdomen last year. His assailant could be committed to a psychiatric hospital. (AP file photo)

Dozens of same-sex weddings performed in Belgium since spring

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Since same-sex marriage was legalized early this year in Belgium, 139 such unions have been conducted, according to Gay.com UK. The Belgian government became the second in the world to allow same-sex marriages six months ago, following the Netherlands. In six of the country's major cities, gay couples have signed up to marry, Gay.com UK reported. Some 4.7 percent of all weddings in the Belgium cities of Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges, Liege, Brussels and Charleroi now are same-sex unions. The advocacy group Holebi reported that Antwerp is the most popular city for gay marriage, with 64 couples taking vows since June, according to media reports. Holebi officials believe that by releasing the high figures of same-sex marriage in Belgium, they will spark countries that are in debates about whether or not to legalize gay marriage to support the proposals, according to Gay.com UK.

Lesbians in South Africa raped to change orientation, activists say

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Gay activists report that lesbians are being raped, assaulted and victimized "every day" in South Africa in attempts to force them to change their sexual orientation, the Saturday Star reported. In Johannesburg townships, 33 black lesbians have reported that they have been raped, assaulted and abused since January, according to the Star. Zanele Muholi, a reporter for the gay publication Behind the Mask, said 12 rapes, four attempted rapes, six verbal abuse cases, three assaults with a deadly weapon and two abductions have been documented, the Star reported. "Since we started on this project we've realized that this kind of thing happens every day, everywhere. As we are speaking, there are two people waiting for me to take their details," Muholi told the Star. The victims range in age from 16 to 35, according to the reporter. She told the Star that most of the women were "butch" or masculine.

British air force bans lesbian and partner from family quarters

LONDON — The Royal Air Force has turned down a gay aircraftswoman, who is about to marry her female partner, for married quarters at her base in Canada, the Sun reported. Senior Aircraftswoman Sam Wyatt, 26, and massage therapist Christa McKay, 25, plan to marry in Toronto at the end of the month, according to the Sun. Wyatt served in the current conflict in Iraq and helps load cargo and passengers at the Brize Norton base in Oxfordshire, the newspaper reported. Despite a large number of empty quarters for married couples at the base, Wyatt was turned down because the Ministry of Defense does not recognize gay marriage, the Sun reported. Wyatt said she will quit the RAF three years early unless the ban on same-sex couples in married military quarters is lifted, according to media reports. A senior RAF spokesperson told the Sun, "Same sex marriages are not recognized in U.K. law and under current MoD regulations same-sex couples are not entitled to family quarters."

British queen's speech expected to include comment on gay couples

LONDON — As the British government considers a bill to allow gay couples to register and receive the same rights as opposite-sex married couples, the topic is expected to be included in the queen's speech this week, according to media reports. The measure will allow same-sex couples to register their partnership, and those couples then would be able to take responsibility as parents for each other's children. The registry also would allow such couples to have pension rights currently only available to married couples, according to British media reports. Lord Lester of Herne Hill, the Liberal Democrat peer, told the media, "If this is in the queen's speech — and I would be very disappointed if it is not — then of course it is very welcome. It's a great step forward for gay couples."

From staff and wire reports

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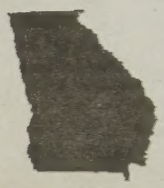

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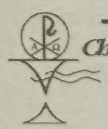

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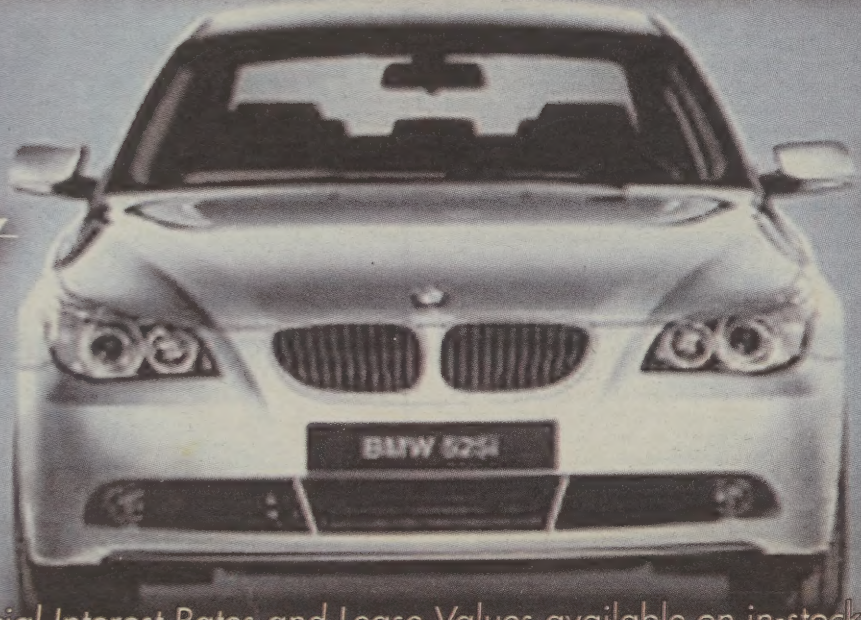

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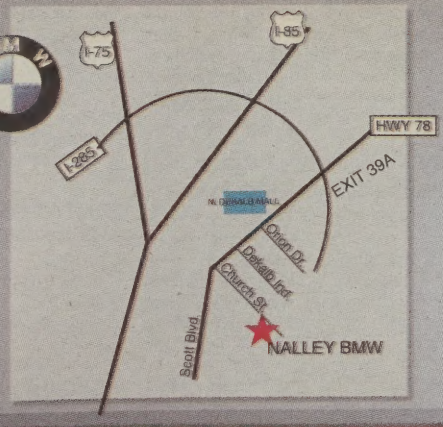

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national news

Judge declines to award damages in 'Rosie' case

O'Donnell 'happy' court battle is over

By KEVIN SPENCE

NEW YORK — A New York Supreme Court judge ruled on Wednesday that neither Rosie O'Donnell nor media giant Gruner + Jahr is entitled to damages in their much-publicized court battle over Rosie magazine.

"So many times peace was offered and war was chosen," O'Donnell told CNNfn after hearing the verdict. "I have no vengeance against the company. I am happy about the fact that it's finally over."

The trial between O'Donnell and Gruner + Jahr USA Publishing brought courtroom outbursts, tearful witnesses and allegations of accounting fraud that seemed to bolster O'Donnell's case.

G+J claimed O'Donnell committed a breach of contract when she abruptly quit in September 2002, causing the magazine to fold. G+J sought $100 million in its lawsuit against O'Donnell for disparaging the magazine and causing its demise.

O'Donnell counter-sued for $125 million, claiming she was stripped of her editorial control when Susan Toepfer, a former People magazine editor, replaced her.

Rosie O'Donnell alleged that Gruner + Jahr publishing executives underreported losses at 'Rosie' magazine to force her into staying. (Photo by Louis Lanzano/AP)

In a release, Daniel B. Brewster Jr., president and CEO of Gruner + Jahr USA, claimed that O'Donnell's case was "built largely upon irrelevant or discredited claims. Conversely, our assertion that she walked away from her contractual obligations without legal cause is fully supported by the record."

According to O'Donnell, the beginning of the end of her relationship with G+J began when Toepfer selected a photograph of O'Donnell with two cast members from HBO's hit show "The Sopranos" to run on the magazine's cover. O'Donnell reportedly told Toepfer that she was unhappy with the planned picture.

"I am the editorial director," O'Donnell admitted in court that she shouted at the editor. "I am the one who chooses the cover."

She said she did not want to be "in the center with my 'f-ing' ugly 'f-ing' face and my 'f-ing' ugly stomach."

O'Donnell and G+J had an equal stake in the magazine, and a clause in O'Donnell's contract allowed her to quit if the magazine lost more than $4.2 million in a fiscal year. O'Donnell asserted in court that the company "cooked the books" to prevent her from opting out of the contract. G+J officials disagreed.

"O'Donnell's fall-back position of alleging accounting manipulation is a smoke screen for her failed argument that G+J USA somehow wrested editorial control away from her," according to a company release. "In fact, G+J USA never asserted its ultimate degree of editorial control."

Some observers assert that it was only after O'Donnell publicly disclosed that she is gay that trouble arose with G+J.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that the relationship fell apart after Rosie came out," said Yetta Kurland, a gay attorney and former student clerk for Justice Ira Gammerman, the New York judge who heard the case. "For them to go out of their way to come after her, certainly seems personal."

Brewster, the publishing company president, testified in court that he was never told about O'Donnell's sexual orientation when he offered her the magazine's stewardship, according to CBS News.

Throughout the high-profile case, G+J lawyers attempted to shift focus to O'Donnell's management style, reputation and sexual orientation.

O'Donnell wasn't the only openly gay figure in the lawsuit saga. G+J's chief financial officer, Lawrence Diamond, once made Out magazine's list of 100 most influential gay people along with O'Donnell. Diamond testified this week that company executives decided to "manage the financials" of the magazine, prompting allegations of accounting fraud from O'Donnell's side.

President Bush congratulates gay church

Conservatives question authenticity of White House letter

By JOE CREA

WASHINGTON — President Bush sent a letter on White House stationery enthusiastically congratulating members of the Metropolitan Community Church for the 35th anniversary of the predominantly gay Christian denomination, the same week he issued a proclamation declaring Oct. 12-18 "Marriage Protection Week."

Critics and supporters of the Bush administration say they don't know if the letter is sincere or a possible political gaffe.

"By encouraging the celebration of faith and sharing the message of God's love and boundless mercy, churches like yours put hope in people's hearts and a sense of purpose in their lives," read the letter received by the MCC.

"This milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on your years of service and to rejoice in God's faithfulness to your congregation. In the days ahead, may your community continue to grow in faith and friendship. Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable celebration," the letter said.

Gay Republicans welcomed the sentiments.

"I think it is a nice sign that the White House is recognizing these churches, and I hope they are sincere," said Mark Mead, political director for the Log Cabin Republicans.

But Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, called the letter an "apparent gaffe" since "MCC is one of the largest homosexual church organizations in the country, and has openly criticized the president's policies on same-sex 'marriage' and several other social issues," he wrote in an e-mail newsletter.

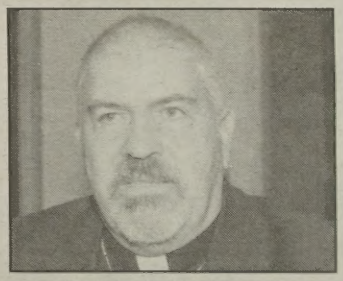
"Today I spoke with the White House about this matter," Perkins wrote. "While on its face this looks troubling, it appears to have been a form letter which does not reflect the previously stated views of the administration on the issue of marriage. We look forward to the White House's official response."

The White House did not respond to questions about the letter by press time.

Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the MCC, said he doesn't think the letter was a gaffe and added that it was not a form letter.

"While we appreciate him thinking of us on our anniversary, and we really do, he knows we part company on the issue of marriage," Perry said.

Perry added that he didn't want to seem like he was "pouncing on the president," but it seemed a bit hypocritical that Bush would congratulate MCC the same week he declared "Marriage Protection Week."



Metropolitan Community Church founder Rev. **Troy Perry** received a letter from President Bush congratulating him on the church's 35th anniversary. (Photo by AP)

The president's proclamation coincided with a series of events last month by 24 religious groups to keep same-sex marriage in the spotlight through the 2004 elections, conservative groups said.

In his proclamation, the president said that protecting marriage is "essential to the continued strength of our society." He did not specifically reference a proposed federal constitutional amendment that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Rev. Neil Thomas, a senior pastor of MCC Los Angeles who also received the letter, said in a recent press release he was "baffled" by the conflicting messages.

"How does one denounce the right of gays and lesbians to marry in their churches and suggest they are incapable of having healthy marriages in one moment, and in the next rejoice in God's faithfulness to a gay and lesbian congregation that performs such same-sex marriages?" he asked.

If the letter is indeed genuine and not a gaffe or a form letter, it represents a tightrope that the administration continues to walk between "compassionate conservatism" and placating the GOP's socially conservative base, said Dave Noble, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats, a gay partisan group.

"The Republican Party is trying to walk a fine line and they can't get away with both," Noble said. "You either work with all members of society or appease your right-wing base by having exclusionary policies and sadly, the Republican Party is controlled by the extremists."

MORE INFO

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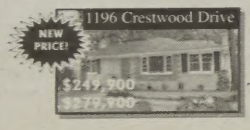

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N.Y. judge delays ex-city official's trial after suicide threat

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge last week postponed the upcoming embezzlement trial of former city housing executive Russell Harding after a doctor said he believed Harding would try to kill himself. The judge ordered a mental examination at a federal facility in North Carolina. Harding was free on bail and set to go to trial in two weeks on charges he financed hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of lavish vacations and other luxuries by disguising them as work expenses. But U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan signed an emergency warrant for Harding's arrest after a psychiatrist alerted court officials that he believed Harding would soon try to commit suicide. Harding's defense attorney said the case would include evidence of Harding's homosexuality and said it was important to eliminate jurors who could not be impartial on the issue.

Russell Harding (left) former city housing director under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, looks on as his attorney, **Gerald Shargel**, talks to the media outside federal court. (Photo by Robert Mecea/AP)

Seattle gay wedding sparks assaults, vandalism

SEATTLE — In protest of a wedding between two men, several young men and one adult who call themselves "Deliverance Unlimited" refused to leave All Pilgrims Christian Church, the Seattle Gay News reported. In the Oct. 25 incident, Rev. Mark Travis, co-pastor of the church, asked the protesters to leave, and the group then began verbally assaulting Travis and his staff. Two of the protesters, Kevlvin Dyer and Christopher Dudley, now are charged with malicious harassment, the newspaper reported. They were to be arraigned last week. According to the police report, "Dudley entered the sanctuary and began praying/yelling that the church needed to be cleansed of sin. [Dudley] ... sprayed and wiped oil on the walls and furniture, and tried to force his way into the reception area," the Seattle Gay News reported. Travis told police he was afraid for his safety and the safety of the church staff. "Thank God the police came when they did," Travis told the newspaper.

'Unremorseful' gay basher sentenced in South Africa

SANDY BAY, South Africa — A Cape Town man who attacked an American tourist because he believed him to be gay was sentenced to six months in jail last week, according to a report in the South Africa Independent. Brian Joseph, 22, pleaded guilty to assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm in an attack on James Girod, 42. Joseph punched Girod several times, damaging his left eye and chipping two teeth. He was sentenced by Hafiza Mohammed at the Wynberg magistrate's court. Mohammed said during the sentencing that Joseph had a problem with anger and had not been provoked into hitting Girod. Girod was at a Sandy Bay beach with a woman friend, a German tourist, when the attack happened on Oct. 27. Mohammed said the money had been paid by Joseph's father and that Joseph did not appear to be remorseful. She said she had considered a harsher punishment, but had been swayed by Girod's testimony that he had fully forgiven Joseph.

Calif. publisher pleads innocent to sodomy charges

YREKA, Calif. (AP) — The publisher of a small Northern California newspaper pleaded innocent to charges of having a sexual relationship with a minor, and his trial date was set for March 23. Daniel Webster, 38, appeared in Siskiyou County Superior Court before Judge Roger Kosel last week. He is charged with three counts of sodomy with a person under 18 and two counts of oral copulation — all felonies — with a person under 18. Webster is also charged with a misdemeanor for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Webster edits and publishes the Pioneer Press in Fort Jones. In July, Webster published an editorial identifying his accuser as a 17-year-old boy who worked for him. He wrote about being gay and claimed the alleged victim was also "openly gay." Webster's editorial claimed the minor made advances toward him, but Webster reportedly told the minor they "could not have sex unless he was 18."

La. man convicted of two murders recommended for parole

ANGOLA, La. (AP) — The state Pardon Board recommended that a man serving two life sentences for two murders be made eligible for parole after spending 36 years in prison. The board recommended Robert Howard's sentence be commuted to 90 years and that he be made eligible for parole after serving one-third of the commuted sentence. Howard, 51, has been in prison since he was 15 years old. He was first convicted of fatally shooting Eli White during a dispute over money in New Orleans. While in prison, Howard was convicted of the 1971 stabbing death of fellow inmate James B. Davis, an East Baton Rouge Parish man serving five years for kidnapping. Howard said that as soon as he was released into the general population in prison, other inmates repeatedly tried to rape him. "They were trying to make a passive homosexual out of me," Howard said. In March 1971, Howard said, Davis and several other inmates surrounded him outside the prison kitchen, the culmination of several rape attempts. Howard said he picked up a knife and stabbed Davis, killing him.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Gay loyalties divided in '04 Democratic primary

Many Clinton-Gore supporters waiting for frontrunner to emerge

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

They've been credited with raising millions of "gay" campaign dollars and delivering several million gay votes in each of the last three presidential elections, two for President Bill Clinton and one for former Vice President Al Gore. Many of them landed jobs in the Clinton White House and high-level positions in executive branch agencies during the Clinton presidency. Most worked hard on Gore's presidential campaign in 2000.

Now, with nine candidates vying for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, many of these seasoned gay political operatives have become highly sought-after commodities among the "top tier" Democrats running for president.

While a large number of prominent gay Democrats from across the country have joined the campaigns of each of the nine Democrats running for president, most of the high-level gay officials from the Clinton-Gore camps remain on the sidelines.

"I like them all," said gay rights attorney Roberta Achtenberg, who served as Clinton's assistant secretary for fair housing at the Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Achtenberg, now the senior vice president for public policy at the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, said she has been contacted personally by at least four of the candidates, who asked for her endorsement.

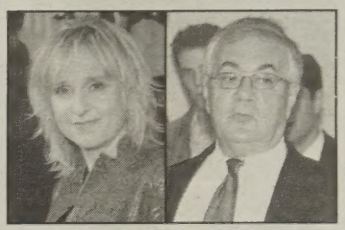
"Kerry has asked, Dean has asked, Gephardt has asked, and Clark has asked," she said. "I have agreed to let them all use my name, with the caveat that I'm not supporting one over the other."

Achtenberg added that she will "work like hell" for whichever candidate wins the nomination.

Gay Democratic activist and philanthropist James Hormel, whom Clinton appointed as U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg, making him the nation's first openly gay ambassador, expressed the same sentiment.

"I have made no choices," he said. "I find each of them inspiring in one way or the other. I find all of them far preferable to the current White House resident."

Gay activists call the current crop of Democratic presidential candidates, collectively, the most supportive on gay civil rights of any set of primary contenders in history.



Singer **Melissa Etheridge** supports former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, while Congressman **Barney Frank** (D-Mass.) is backing Mass. Sen. John Kerry for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The candidates are former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, U.S. Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), and John Edwards (D-N.C.), U.S. Reps. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun (D-Ill.), Rev. Al Sharpton (D-N.Y.), and former Army General Wesley Clark (D-Ark.).

Watching from the sidelines

Like other gay former Clinton administration officials, Achtenberg and Hormel said their decision to hold off on backing a candidate is based on a desire to avoid taking sides in a potentially divisive intra-party fight over the nomination.

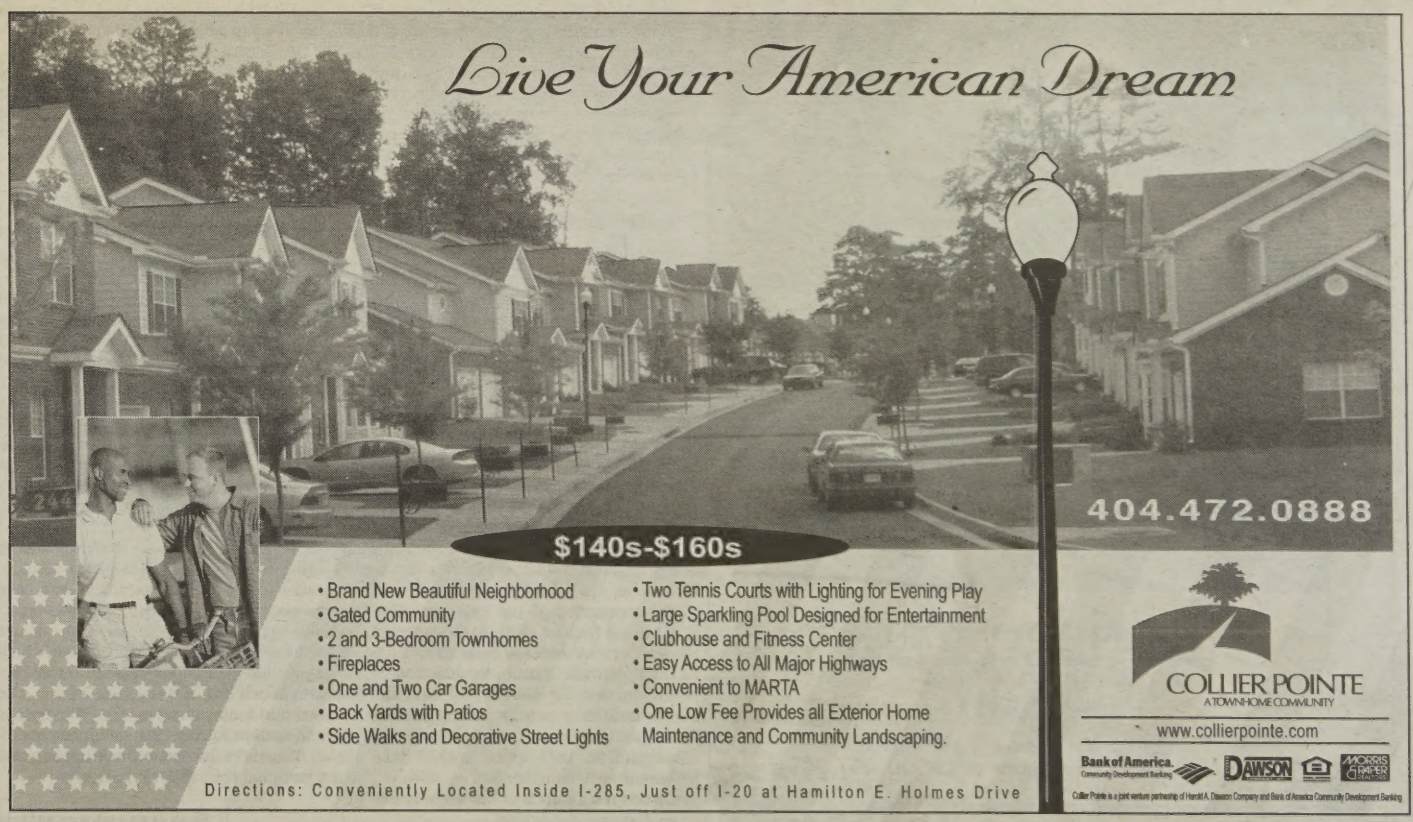
Other gay Clinton administration officials taking a similar posture of neutrality include Richard Socarides, former White House adviser on gay issues; Todd Dickinson, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce and director of the U.S. Office of Patent & Trademarks; John Berry, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior; and Bob Hattoy, former White House personnel adviser and Clinton-Gore campaign official.

But not all of Clinton's former aids remain on the sidelines. Julian Potter, a vice presidential aid to Gore who served later as Clinton's White House liaison to gays, supports Dean. She said she agrees with Dean's bold challenge to Democrats who sided with President Bush on the war in Iraq as well as his stands on other issues.

"Some of these people who have been in politics a long time wait until they know who will be the winner," Potter said. "I have a different view. I feel Dean is where the party should be. This is the time to shape our party on the issues. So I'm for him."

Although Potter is the only high-level gay Clinton administration official so far to back Dean, Dean has attracted the largest number of prominent gay community leaders and political activists among all of the Democratic presidential

Please see POWER BROKERS on Page 23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religion news

Denver Baptist school shifts gay policy to get vouchers

DENVER (AP) — A private Baptist school barred from the state's new voucher program backed away from its policy of threatening to expel openly gay students. Silver State Baptist in Lakewood won approval from the Denver Public Schools board of education last week because of the change. The new voucher law does not allow school districts to accept applications from private schools that discriminate against certain students. The school's old discipline policy said premarital sex, homosexuality and sexual perversion are reasons for automatic expulsion. The new policy states that "premarital sex and sexual perversion, between opposite and/or same sex students" are grounds for expulsion. "We teach our children to love one another, regardless of differences among them," Silver State Principal Rodolfo Gomez wrote in a letter to the board. At the meeting, district staffers assured school board chair Elaine Berman that an openly gay student would be allowed to attend the school.

Principal **Rodolfo Gomez**

British police quiz bishop over anti-gay comments

MIDDLESBROUGH, Great Britain — A bishop who suggested that gays should seek medical treatment for their sexual orientation will not be prosecuted, a police spokesperson said this week, the Independent of London reported. Rev. Dr. Peter Forster, bishop of Chester, said in an interview with the Chester Chronicle on Nov. 7, "Some people who are primarily homosexual can reorientate themselves." He also said, "I would not set myself up as a medical specialist on the subject; that's in the area of psychiatric health," according to media reports. Cheshire Constabulary began to investigate the comments after a complaint from the public, the newspaper reported. The police spokesperson said, however: "The issues raised have been examined. The Crown Prosecution Service has been consulted at length, and the Cheshire Constabulary is satisfied that no criminal offenses have been committed. Current public order legislation does not provide specific offenses based on sexuality," according to media reports.

Newly appointed gay N.H. bishop calls for church to welcome outcasts

PETERBOROUGH, N.H. (AP) — Rev. V. Gene Robinson began his ministry as the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church Sunday by saying he wants to bring the message of God's love to "those on the margins." He also said the church should speak out on issues of social justice, including the lack of access to health care for many Americans. "How dare we in this country spend $87 billion on war when 44 million people have no health insurance?" he said in a sermon at All Saints Church, where he was married to his former wife. New Hampshire's Episcopalians elected Robinson as bishop in June, and his selection was approved at the convention of the Episcopal Church USA in August. But his consecration nearly two weeks ago threatens to divide the Episcopal Church, the U.S. branch of Anglicanism. On Nov. 3, overseas bishops who said they represented 50 million of the world's 77 million Anglicans, jointly announced they were in a "state of impaired communion" with the Episcopal Church — a step short of declaring a full schism.

Australian church leader: Gays in clergy 'shame blacks'

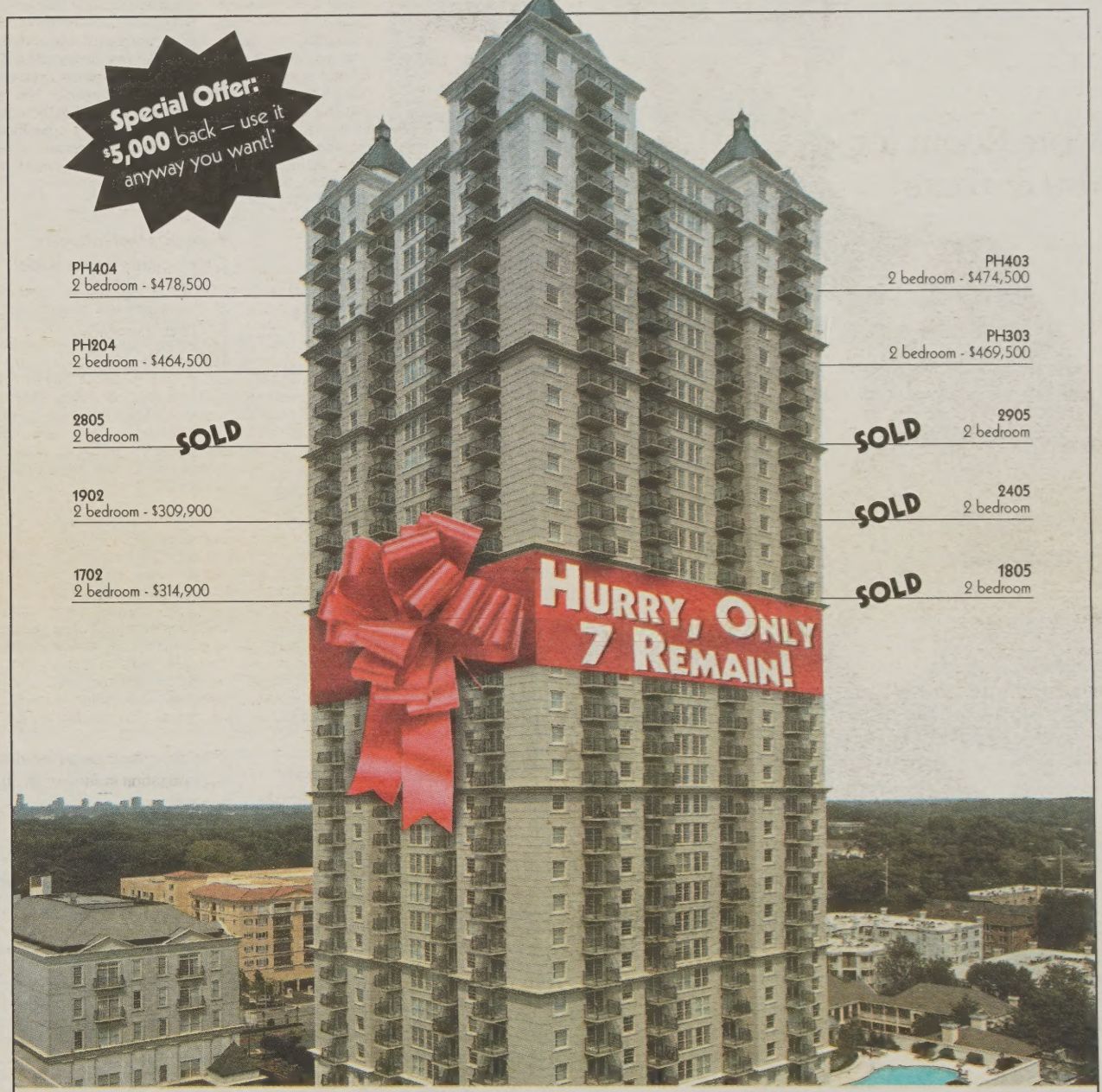
BOWEN HILLS, Australia — Homosexuality is a product of white culture, and gay clergy should be rejected, a Queensland indigenous church leader said last week, the Sunday-Mail reported. Rev. Dennis Corowa of the Calvary Presbytery said the Uniting Church's Queensland Synod should reject gay clergy. He said gay behavior shames blacks and the prospect of church leaders in same-sex relationships "shames us further," the newspaper reported. The synod planned to decide whether or not to support a national church resolution to leave decisions on the ordination of gay ministers to individual districts, according to media reports. Many officials at the synod want to reaffirm a 1991 resolution that defines responsible sexual behavior as "celibacy in singleness and loving faithfulness between a man and a woman in marriage," the Sunday-Mail reported. Corowa said gay relationships are not part of Aboriginal culture. "This business of same-sex relationships comes from white culture and white people," he said.

Rebel movement aims to outlaw gay ordination in Australian church

MELBOURNE, Australia — Leaders of the Reforming Alliance, a grassroots rebellion in the Uniting Church of Australia, said they are gaining ground in efforts to overturn gay ordination, the Age reported. The group wants individual congregations to decide the question, and alliance members believe the congregations will largely reject gay ministers. The church's national assembly voted against putting the question to individual churches, but the alliance is pursuing the issue, the Age reported. "We are really committed to finding a way through for healing and unity," spokesperson Rosemary Broadstock said. "We're really distressed about the break in relationships in the church. There's been enough conflict and negative views on all sides." The alliance gained support last week from the Queensland synod, which agreed that the issue should go before congregations for a vote. The synod also renewed a conservative view of marriage and declared that a "practicing homosexual lifestyle" is incompatible with Christian principles, according to the Age.

From staff and wire reports

Midtown's Last Call



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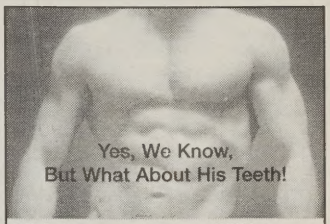

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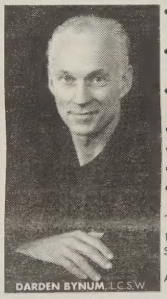

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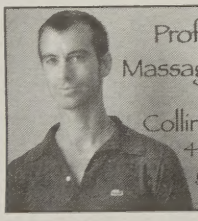

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medical report

Bisexuality, abuse, drugs add to AIDS spread in South

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Health officials have struggled for years to understand why blacks across the rural South are contracting AIDS at a faster rate than whites. A research scientist at the University of Alabama has come up with an explanation, based on hundreds of clinical interviews conducted over nearly a decade: a deadly mix of bisexuality, abuse of women and drugs, all in an environment of oppressive need. "Poverty is the driving force," the researcher, Bronwen Lichtenstein, said. Most AIDS educators said the findings mirrored what they see. In Alabama, about 60 percent of people with AIDS over the past two decades are blacks, mostly black men, even though blacks make up only about a quarter of the state's population. Lichtenstein's work has shown that with homosexuality even less accepted among blacks than whites, some rural men are having "sneaky" sex with other men. Lichtenstein, a member of the governor's AIDS commission, noted that those same men often are in sexual relationships with women, sometimes several at one time, and therefore spread the disease more quickly.

University of Alabama researcher **Bronwen Lichtenstein** said a combination of bisexuality, abuse of women and drugs, plus poverty, contribute to the spread of AIDS among blacks in the South. (Photo by Jason Getz/AP)

Studies: Gay men more likely to take recreational drugs

LONDON — Two new studies found that young gay men are more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to take recreational drugs, the U.K. Independent reported. The first report, based on a four-year study of the lives of 3,493 American men between ages 15 and 22 who had sex with men, was published in the American Journal of Public Health. It found that almost one in three of the men took illegal substances like ecstasy, marijuana or cocaine at least once a week, the Independent reported. A second set of findings, published by Mind, a mental health charity, was similar. That study reported high levels of recreational drug use among gays in Britain, according to the Independent. In that study, more than 2,200 gay men, lesbians, heterosexuals and bisexuals were examined. The report stated: "Levels of substance-use disorders were higher among gay men and lesbians, who were more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to have used recreational drugs," the Independent reported.

HIV infections surge among gays in Maine

PORTLAND, Maine — Health officials are concerned that an increase in HIV infections among gay and bisexual men in Maine hints at a health crisis not seen in two decades for the high-risk group, the Portland Press-Herald reported. Although levels of the virus have been largely stable over the past few years, gay and bisexual men make up a growing number of cases, the newspaper reported. In Maine, such men comprise about 71 percent of 41 cases recorded this year so far, up from 38 percent of 51 cases in 2000, the Press-Herald reported. "What we could be seeing is a resurgence of HIV around the corner," Mark Griswold, an epidemiologist with the state's HIV/STD program, told the newspaper. Health leaders attribute the recent increase to complacency: They say older men may be tired of being careful, and younger men who did not experience the early days of the AIDS epidemic may be lax and also rely on anti-viral medication.

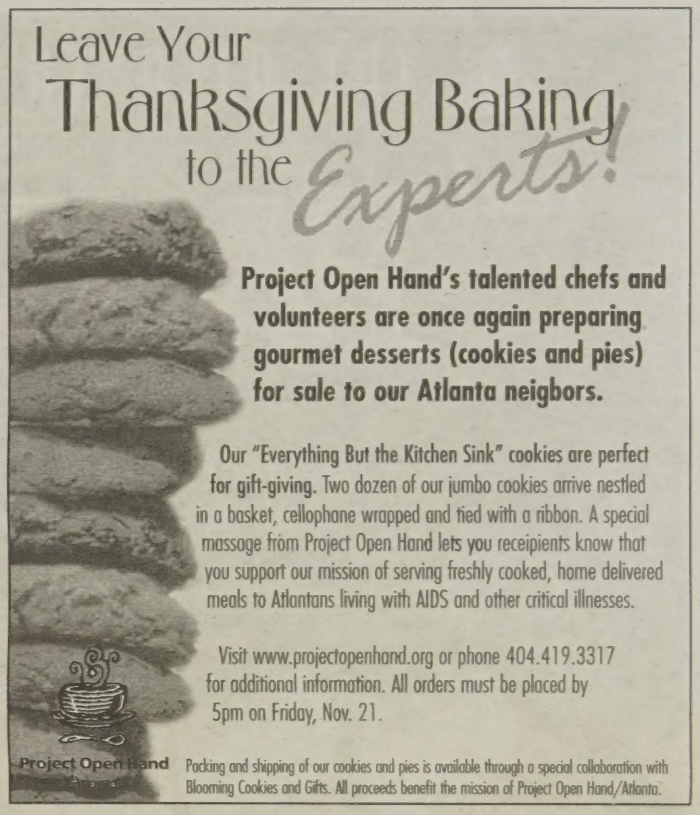
Pa. man alleges bank fired him for having HIV and being gay

FLEMINGTON, Pa. — United Trust Bank is accused of firing a former employee because he is HIV positive and gay, the Easton Express-Times reported. Bank officials declined to comment on the allegations. Dominic Mallozzi of Lambertville filed a lawsuit Oct. 23 seeking unspecified damages for lost wages, humiliation and mental and emotional distress, according to the newspaper. According to the suit, Mallozzi was diagnosed with HIV in late 2002, the Express-Times reported. Mallozzi told bank officials he would take sick leave to receive treatment and recuperate, but was told his job had been filled when he attempted to return to work in March, the newspaper reported. He was reassigned to the Palmer Township branch, attempted to use a computer system that was different than the one at his previous bank, and was fired after a complaint from supervisors that he could not do his job without help, according to the Express-Times.

British gang uses date rape drug to sexually assault men

EDINBURGH, Scotland — A local gang is using GHB, known as the "date rape drug," to spike the drinks of men before sexually assaulting them, the Herald of Britain reported. Officials report that at least four men may have been victims in the last four weeks in pubs and bars in Edinburgh, according to the Herald. Police and gay activists are cooperating to combat the attacks. GHB can be dissolved in drinks and is undetectable since it has no taste, smell or appearance when mixed in a drink. Craig Hutchison, counseling manager of Gay Men's Health in Edinburgh, told the Herald that occurrences of male rape are vastly underreported. In the recent incidents, gang members allegedly identify potential victims at gay bars and establishments, taint their drinks with GHB, and lure them back to a house, where others are waiting, the Herald reported.

From staff and wire reports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national news

Gay Democratic backers split among nine candidates

POWER BROKERS, continued from Page 17

contenders. The Dean campaign boasts that the growing list of gay Dean supporters resembles a "Who's Who" among gay elected officials and gay Democratic Party leaders.

Among the gay Dean backers are Tom Ammiano, the San Francisco Supervisor and mayoral candidate; Jeffrey Prang, the mayor of West Hollywood; and Jim Graham, the D.C. City Council member.

Also backing Dean are a number of prominent gays in the arts and entertainment industry, including singer Melissa Etheridge.

Kerry has also drawn a significant number of gay leaders to his camp. Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) is serving as chair of the Kerry campaign's National Lesbian & Gay Advisory Council. Others backing Kerry include Fred Hochberg, former deputy director of the U.S. Small Business Administration under Clinton.

Mixner joins Gephardt campaign

David Mixner, the gay Democratic activist credited with lining up gay support for Bill Clinton in the early stages of the 1992 presidential campaign, was named last month as co-chair of the Gephardt campaign. Mixner is considered a highly successful fund-raiser for the Democratic Party and gay rights causes, making him an important asset for Gephardt, gay activists said. He has been working with Gephardt since the Missouri congressman entered the presidential race last year. Joining Mixner on the Gephardt campaign is gay Democrat Steve Elmondorf, who for years served as chief of staff to Gephardt's congressional office, including his minority leader's office.

Another key Gephardt campaign official is the congressman's openly lesbian daughter, Chrissy Gephardt, who serves as director of gay and lesbian outreach as well as a liaison on women's and college student issues.

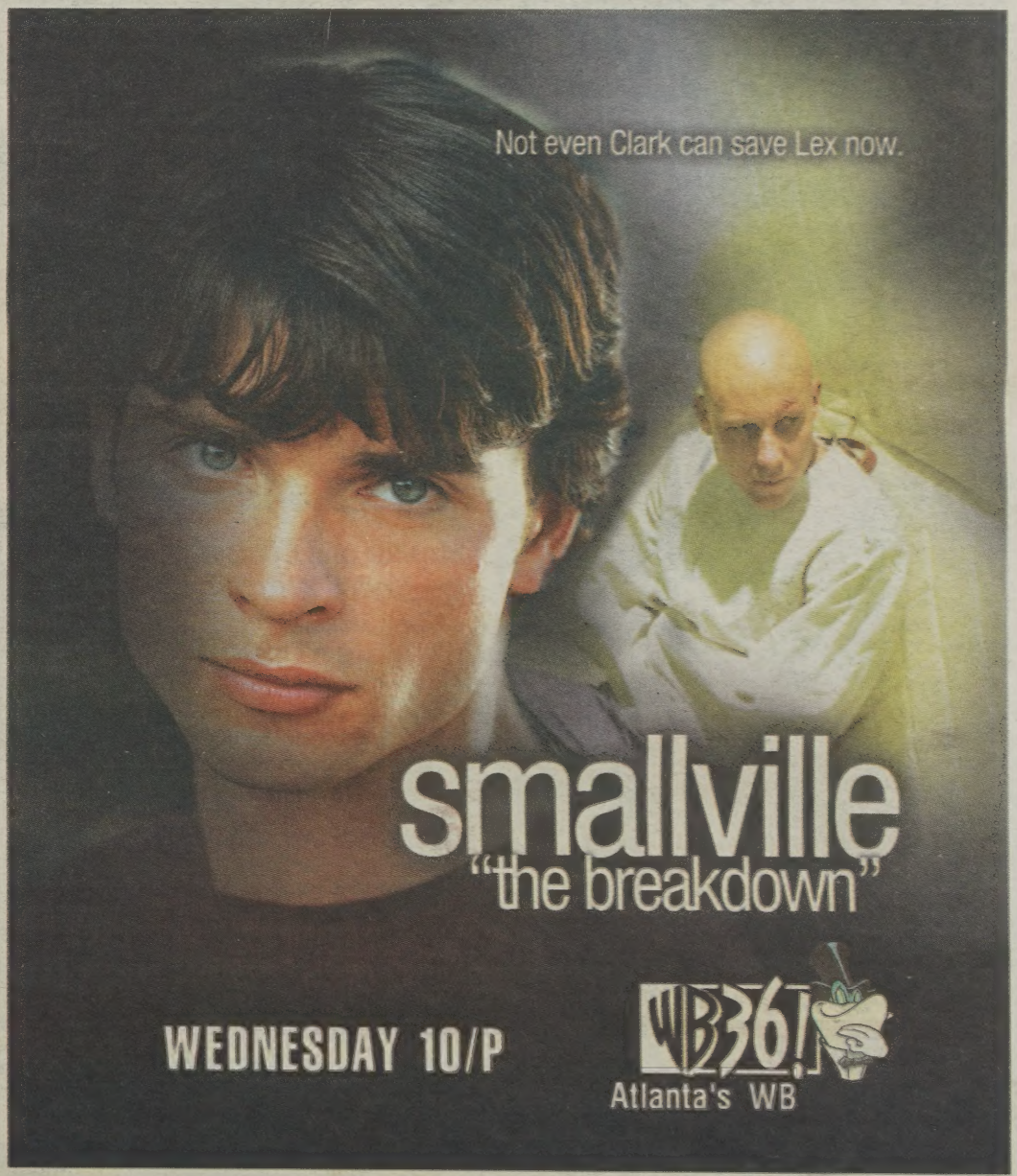
Former Clinton White House staffer Paul Yandura, who serves as a consultant to the Edwards campaign, said the campaign will soon announce the names of other "prominent gay and lesbian Democrats" backing Edwards.

Although the Lieberman campaign has yet to draw some of the big names from the Clinton-Gore campaigns of past years, Lieberman enjoys the support of many Clinton-Gore backers, according to gay Lieberman supporters Raymond Buckley of New Hampshire and Emily Giske of New York City. Buckley and Giske, both openly gay members of the Democratic National Committee, said Lieberman's strong gay rights positions and his status as a moderate Democrat make him one of the strongest contenders to beat President Bush in the general election.

Tom Goodwin, president of an executive search firm in D.C. and one of the leading gay Democrats backing Clark, said he expects a large number of uncommitted gay Democrats to gravitate toward Clark in the coming months. Like many of Clark's supporters, Goodwin believes Clark has the best chance of defeating Bush because of his background as a military leader. Other gay Clark supporters include Richard Maulsby and Paul Kuntzler, the founding members of D.C.'s Gertrude Stein Democratic club and participants in gay Democratic politics going back to the 1970s.

Gay backers of Moseley Braun, Kucinich, and Sharpton say that while the three so far have struggled with low-budget campaigns and low numbers in public opinion polls, they draw support from a large cadre of grassroots gay activists . All three have taken some of the strongest stands on gay issues. Unlike the others, the three have expressed support for gay civil marriage, prompting their gay backers to label them as the most pro-gay of the nine Democrats running for president.

Gloria Nieto, an AIDS activist and member of the DNC, and 'Queer as Folk' actor **Robert Gant** are two of the prominent gay men and lesbians who are getting involved in presidential campaigns. Nieto backs Mass. Sen. John Kerry, while Gant supports former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.



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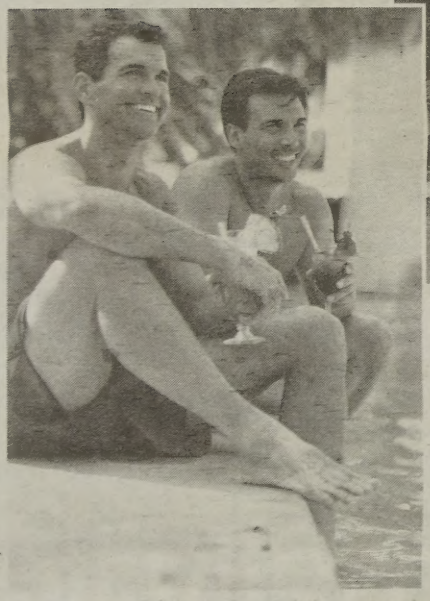

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Many voices, one song

Three local choruses tout themes of unity during winter concerts

By VAN GOWER

THE ANNUAL ARRIVAL OF WINTER also means the arrival of a full slate of holiday activities, including three upcoming concerts that honor the spirit of the season.

OurSong, a co-ed chorus formed last year by former members of the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus and the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, performs Nov. 22 at Georgia State University.

While not a holiday-themed concert, "How Can I Keep From Singing" features songs that explore spirituality through themes of hope, faith and love.

"From the sounds of Southern gospel to chants to worlds filled with hope, our spirituality helps us see the world through different eyes," said Robert Glor, OurSong artistic director.

OurSong's gender mix allows for "a sound you can't get with the other choruses," said Lavon Lacey, OurSong promotions director.

The performance is "basically about the music" and the unity of the 25-member chorus, Lacey said.

ON NOV. 6 AND NOV. 7, THE 50-MEMBER Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus, which was founded by and predominantly includes lesbians, presents its seventh holiday concert, "Cool Yule, Ya'll."

Concerts at two local gay-inclusive churches honor varied spiritual belief systems and ethnicities and draw from a mix of musical sources, with a particular focus on themes of peace and healing, according to Eileen Moreman, AFWC artistic director.

The music chosen for the concerts ranges from serious classical to jazzy and comic contemporary numbers. The concerts are set to include music from several spiritual paths.

In addition to humorous tunes like "Santa Baby" and "Boogie Woogie Hanukkah," "one piece is a medley of snippets of old Christmas chestnuts that we're calling 'Christmas In About Three Minutes,'" Moreman said.

The AFWC also honors the Solstice with Van Morrison's "Moondance," and a symbolic Celtic gathering that looks into the rebirth of the self and the universe.

Robert Glor (left), artistic director of the gay chorus OurSong, leads **Lynn Rhyys Jones** and other chorus members as they practice for the group's Nov. 22 holiday concert. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

LATER THAT WEEK, THE ATLANTA Gay Men's Chorus performs two "A Real Family Holiday" concerts at the Cathedral of St. Philip.

"Our theme is based on our presenting ourselves as real members at the table during the holidays, in both given and chosen families," said Ken Anderson, AGMC executive director.

For its Dec. 12 and Dec. 13 shows, the 125-member chorus features some of its most popular pieces, as well as new songs and arrangements that are sacred and secular with a multicultural spirit, Anderson said.

The diversity of music "displays the artistry of the chorus' ability to put its own spin on music we're accustomed to, even if that's jazz or rock arrangements," Anderson said.

MORE INFO

OurSong Fall Concert
Nov. 22, 8 p.m.
Georgia State University Recital Hall
Arts & Humanities Bldg.
10 Peachtree Center Ave.
$20
404-542-3025
www.oursongatlanta.com

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus
'Cool Yule, Ya'll' Holiday Concert
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St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
1790 LaVista Road NE
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Gay business expo draws hundreds

The Gay & Lesbian Community Expo, held Nov. 9 at Sheraton Midtown Atlanta hotel, experienced a "very healthy stream of traffic" during its inaugural run, said Mickey Parsons, vice president of the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, a co-sponsor. "There was a very healthy balance of large corporations, travel agencies, and our local small businesses," Parsons said.

An estimated 1,500 people perused the booths of 90 local and national exhibitors showcasing products and services aimed at gay consumers, said David Paisley, production manager for Community Marketing, Inc., the San Francisco production company that put on the event.

A benefit raffle also fared well, Paisley said. Some $850 culled from a portion of each ticket sale is earmarked to be divided this week among PALS Atlanta, Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative, Georgia Equality and the Kid In All Of Us, a local organization that collects toys for needy children. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Van Gower

COMMUNITY CALENDAR, **Pages 26** SPORTS, **Page 27** SPIRITUAL CALENDAR, **Page 29**

notes

AIDS Survival Project celebrates 15 years with a Nov. 15 benefit gala, also honoring three AIDS service leaders including **Jamie Rousey** of the Atlanta AIDS Partnership Fund, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Commerce Club, 34 Broad St. NW. 404-874-7926, ext. 18, www.aidssurvivalproject.org

SATURDAY NOV. 15

LEGAL COURSE: The Atlanta Legal Aid Society's 13th annual five-kilometer walk and Run for Justice begins at 9 a.m. at the corner of Los Angeles Street and North Highland Avenue, benefiting its general civil legal services fund for low-income metro Atlanta residents. 404-524-5811, www.law.emory.edu/alas

PIES TO PROCEEDS: An 'Easy as Pie' sale of gourmet pies and cookie gift baskets benefits Project Open Hand's services in time for Thanksgiving. Orders must be received by 5 p.m. Nov. 21 to be picked up Nov. 25 and Nov. 26. 404-419-3317, www.projectopenhand.org

THURSDAY NOV. 20

FINANCIAL FEMINISTS: 'Feminism 101: Investing With Your Values' features financial strategist Eileen Fannon, who discusses investing as a feminist in today's economy, at 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

SATURDAY NOV. 22

GET SKILLS: AIDS Survival Project holds a workshop for people in training to be HIV/AIDS peer counselors. Continental lunch and breakfast provided. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 139 Ralph McGill Blvd. Pre-register by Nov. 20. 404-874-7926, www.aidssurvivalproject.org

VACCINATION TIME: AID Atlanta gives hepatitis vaccinations in conjunction with the Fulton County Health Dept. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ansley Mall at Monroe Drive and Piedmont Avenue. Also Oct. 24 from 9 p.m. to midnight at Hoedown's, 931 Monroe Drive. 404-870-7700, www.aidatlanta.org

community calendar

SATURDAY NOV. 15

FAMILYPRIDE OF THE SOUTH (FORMERLY ATLANTA FAMILY PRIDE). Family bowling from 5-7 p.m. at Express Lanes, 1936 Piedmont Circle. 770-640-1915, www.familypridesouth.org

ONGOING EVENTS

ASIAN PACIFIC LESBIAN BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER NETWORK. Women's and trans-women's social organization. 404-795-0680, www.apibtn.net

LAMBDA GROUP-ATLANTA. Potluck meal. 770-457-5264, groups.yahoo.com/group/LambdaGroup-Atlanta

NORTH ATLANTA OWLS. Older wiser lesbians (50 +) meet for fun and friendship. Locations and activities vary. Mfinatlanta@yahoo.com

SUNDAY NOV. 16

ONGOING EVENTS

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. 4-6 p.m. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 107 North Candler Road, Decatur. 404-370-0920

BOLDLY UNDERSTANDING THE COMMON HER. Safe-space social group for lesbians of all backgrounds meets 2:30-4 p.m. in the garden level at YouthPride, 107 North Candler Road, Decatur. 678-754-9888, CALIF347@hotmail.com

CHARIS CIRCLE. Monthly all-ages "Gaia Collective" women's group discusses surviving trauma at 6 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 40-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

LAMBDA GROUP. Family beyond the northern perimeter, and dining-out. Time varies. 770-457-5264, lambdagroup@msn.com

MONDAY NOV. 17

ONGOING EVENTS

HOTLANTA SQUARES. Gay square dance club. Basic, mainstream, and plus classes and workshops 7-10 p.m. at First MCC of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 770-329-3146, www.iagsdc.org/hotlanta

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS. Monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at the Colonnade Restaurant, 1879 Cheshire Bridge Road North. www.ga-stonewalldems.org

YOUNG AFRICAN-AMERICAN GAY OUTREACH INITIATIVE. Open drop-in hours for socializing from 12-6 p.m. at AID Atlanta, 1438 West Peachtree St. NW, Suite 100. 404-870-7746, www.aidatlanta.org

TUESDAY NOV. 18

ONGOING EVENTS

HOTLANTA SQUARES. Gay square dance club. Advanced classes and workshops 7-10 p.m. at First MCC of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 770-329-3146, www.iagsdc.org/hotlanta

RAINBOW CENTER MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Gay or bisexual men. 404-885-9776, www.therainbowcenter.org

YOUTHPRIDE. Drop-in hours 4-6 p.m. 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

WEDNESDAY NOV. 19

ATLANTA MEN FOR ALL CULTURES. Gay men's social organization election of officers, everyone welcome, at 7:30 p.m. 404-841-9540, mailbox 949-9183; www.AtlMenforAllCultures.org

PALS ATLANTA. Bubba D. Licious hosts "Naughty and Nice Boys Night Out" benefiting PALS at 9 p.m. at Halo Lounge. www.HALOlounge.com

ONGOING EVENTS

RAINBOW CENTER WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-8:30 p.m. For lesbian, bisexual and questioning women. www.therainbowcenter.org or 404-885-9776

TEEN GROUP. Gays ages 13-17. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

YOUNG ADULT GROUP. Gays ages 18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

YOUTHPRIDE. Drop-in hours 4-6 p.m. 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

THURSDAY NOV. 20

ONGOING EVENTS

ATLANTA MEN FOR ALL CULTURES. Gay men's social group discussion night at 7 p.m. 404-841-9540, mailbox 949-9183; www.AtlMenforAllCultures.org

BOY TALK. Gay men ages 18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

CONNECTIONS. Gay relationships and personal-growth group for Georgia Tech students meets 4:30-6 p.m. in the Counseling Center, Student Services Bldg. Room 238, Georgia Tech, 225 North Ave. NW. Jill, 404-894-2575, www.counseling.gatech.edu

GET YOUR LIFE. 12-4 p.m. Young black gay and bisexual men. Georgia State, Dorchester Room. 44 Courtland St. 404-870-7746, deeperlove@aidatlanta.org

LAGENDER INC. 6-7:30 p.m. Transgender/Transsexual support group in collaboration with Aniz Inc. 223 Mitchell St., Suite 200. 404-767-5644

LESBIAN READING GROUP. 404-467-4278

WOMEN'S GROUP. Gay women ages 18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

YOUTHPRIDE. Drop-in hours 4-6 p.m. 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

FRIDAY NOV. 21

ONGOING EVENTS

CHARIS CIRCLE. Monthly women-only open mike night. Sign-up 7:30 p.m., program 8 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

NORTHERN TRIANGLE. Gays beyond the northern perimeter TGIF celebration in Roswell, 7:30 p.m.

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occasions

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Nov. 17 birthday to Southern Voice Editor **Matt Hennie** from the entire staff.

"Happy 50th birthday on Nov. 19 to my best friend, my partner of 10 years, Dennis Dravland. I love you always—Duke."

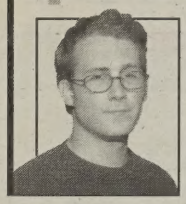
"David Payseur, owner of Gazzelle's Clothing, celebrates two big milestones this week. On Nov. 20, the Scorpio celebrates his birthday with a party and show at The Metro. Then, Nov. 21 and 22, the fashionista celebrates one year in the garment at his boutique on N. Highland Avenue. Congratulations!"

A belated happy birthday to Lewis Covington, former art director for Etcetera Magazine, on Nov. 7.

Happy birthday to Southern Voice advertising representative Bill Bennett on Nov. 11.

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com,** call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

sports CHRISTOPHER SEELY



Lesbians among athletes turning out in droves to try out for two fledgling Atlanta **women's football** teams.

Tackling a new sport

WOMEN ATHLETES, INCLUDING quite a few lesbians, are tackling a new sport in Atlanta.

"It's aggressive, it's fast-paced — football is the hardest sport I've ever played," says Dee Ember, who has been playing for two years. "I'm going to play 'til the day I die."

Ember, who is gay, plays for the newly formed Atlanta Xplosion, which branched off in January from the other women's football team in town, the Atlanta Leopards, after a power struggle between players, coaches and the Leopards' owner.

Both Xplosion and the Leopards hold Nov. 22 tryouts for the 2004 spring season.

During the 2003 season, Xplosion played only exhibition games against competitive teams in the Independent Women's Football League, ending with a 9-1 record, which bodes well for 2004, Ember said.

"It's already a buzz," Ember says. "We are the team to be forced with."

THE LEOPARDS COMPETED LAST season in the separate National Women's Football Association, ending its season 0-8, according to owner La'Tonya Watters.

"This past season was not a good season, but I would do it again if I had to," Watters says.

The formation of a second team in a different league occurred after Watters "had to make some administrative decisions" and fired two of the Leopards' original coaches, Watters says.

After the coaches left, so did many Leopards team members, who started in a different league as the Xplosion, Watters says.

"It was better opportunity and better management," according to Ember, who left the Leopards along with the coaches and a core group of players.

When the Leopards roster left, Watters forged ahead with the season that started in April, bringing in novice players and a new coach.

To make matters worse, the new coach never came back after the first game because of a power control struggle with Watters, Watters says.

"I'm the sole owner, and anybody who comes in and tries to tell me how to run things will quickly learn they cannot," she says.

DESPITE THE DEVASTATING SEASON of losses and turnovers, the "administrative decisions" were worth it, says Watters, who estimated her 2003 novice team to be 85 percent gay.

Xplosion cannot estimate the number of gay players, according to Elizabeth Deschesne, communications director for Xplosion, who used to work for the Leopards before the split.

Football provides lesbian athlete **Dee Ember** the opportunity to do something that she was previously 'never allowed to do,' she said. Ember plays for the Atlanta Xplosion. (Photo courtesy of Atlanta Xplosion)

"We are not a gay football league, but the diversity in our ranks is wide," says Deschesne, who is gay. "When it comes down to it, it's about the athletes and nobody cares what anybody else does in their private life."

About 20 women showed up for the most recent Leopards tryout this fall, compared to 86 women that Deschesne counted who turned out at the Xplosion's Nov. 1 tryout session.

The Leopards are looking to recruit as many players as they can, and Xplosion wants to select the best 65 players who try out to comprise its squad, according to team officials.

Each team also boasts television coverage. The Leopards' league, the NWFA, just signed a five-year contract with Television Football Network, and several of the teams appeared on the Nov. 11 episode of "Tonight Show with Jay Leno", Watters said.

One member of Xplosion, Sara Ann Hudson, is scheduled to appear on The Learning Channel's "A Makeover Story," which was taped earlier this year. Hudson and her mother were made over for Xplosion's 2003 banquet, Deschesne said.

MORE INFO

Atlanta Leopards Tryouts
Nov. 22, 7 a.m.
Tobie Grant Park
Glendale Road
$35
404-583-2439
www.atlanta-leopards.com

Atlanta Xplosion Tryouts
Nov. 22, 8 a.m.
Southside High School
801 Glenwood Ave.
$95
678-592-1217
www.atlantaxplosion.com

sports calendar

BASKETBALL

HOTLANTA BASKETBALL. Saturdays. Men at 11:30 a.m., women at 2 p.m. All skill levels. Atlbasketball@aol.com

ZAMI BASKETBALL. African-American hoopers, 18 and older. Saturdays, 3 p.m. First Decatur Baptist Church, 308 Clairmont Ave. 404-370-0920, www.zami.org

BILLIARDS

RAINBOW DIVISION ATLANTA POOL LEAGUES. Amateur pool teams, all skill levels. 770-552-1180, www.APA-Atlanta.com

BOWLING

BOWLING LEAGUE. For gay singles. Mondays 9 p.m. AMF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Ave., Savannah. $10/week. 912-925-0320

FRIENDS & COMPANY. Sundays 6 p.m. AMF Victory Lanes, 2055 E. Victory Drive, Savannah. 912-354-0658

LAMBDA BOWLING LEAGUE. New bowlers welcome. Sundays 1:15 p.m. at Express Bowling Lanes, 1936 Piedmont Circle NE. 404-452-7709, lambda_bowling@yahoo.com

FOOTBALL

ATLANTA THUNDER. Gay flag football team welcomes new players. www.atlantathunderfootball.com

HOCKEY

GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE. All skill levels. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon. 770-985-4903, www.gfha.org/womensleague.html

RUGBY

ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY. Practice Thursdays 7-9 p.m., matches on Saturdays. No experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

HOTLANTA RUGBY. New rugby forming. www.hotlantarugby.org

RUNNING/WALKING/HIKING

FRONT RUNNERS. Saturdays meet at 8 a.m. in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon, Decatur. Wednesdays 6:30 p.m., meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

SOCCER

HOTLANTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION. Weekly practice times and schedules available online. 404-299-8245, www.hotlantasoccer.com

SOFTBALL

HOTLANTA SOFTBALL LEAGUE. 404-875-9881, www.hotlantasoftball.org.

SWIMMING

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. U.S. Masters swim team. Swimming and water polo, all swimmers welcome. Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 p.m., Fridays 7:30 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

TENNIS

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY. Social tennis for players at all levels. Saturdays 2-6 p.m. at Piedmont Park tennis courts, and at Glenlake Tennis Center in Decatur. 770-621-2699, www.atta.org

VOLLEYBALL

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. Open play for all levels. Tuesdays 7-10 p.m., Friday evenings. 770-621-5062, www.hotlantavolleyball.org

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: **Van Gower**. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

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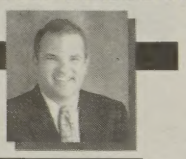
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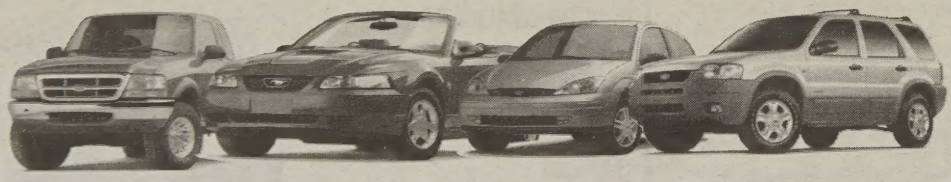

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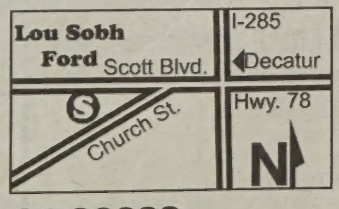

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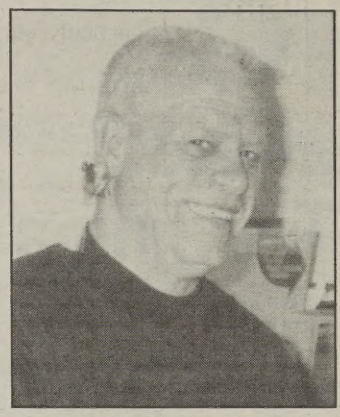

James Prouty Allen, Jr. was a longtime volunteer for local gay organizations. (Photo courtesy Edward C. Smith)

James Prouty Allen, Jr., 59

James Allen, Jr., 59, died Nov. 3 at Atlanta Medical Center after self-inflicted injuries sustained in his Atlanta home, according to Edward C. Smith, his partner of 10 years, and Allen's son, James Allen III. Allen's body was cremated at Huey Funeral Home in Canton, Ga., officials at the funeral home confirmed.

A private service was held Nov. 8 at the home Allen and Smith shared. The service concluded with the release of rainbow balloons and a memorial in Piedmont Park, Smith said.

Allen, an Atlanta native, was a 37-year employee of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as a district manager of circulation for the newspaper.

He participated in the gay March on Washington in 1993 and was an active volunteer at gay events and causes, Smith said.

"He was always at Pride, the AIDS Walk and PALS Bingo," Smith said. "That's where we met."

Allen also participated in the Little Five Points Halloween parade in 2001 and 2002 and performed frequently as drag personality Runoutta Lube in local clubs, Smith said.

"We never fought. We said 'I love you' every morning and every evening," Smith said. "A lot of people said we set a loving example to other people."

Allen and Smith were parishioners at St. Michael the Defender Catholic Church for two years, according to Jerry Clanton, parish administrator at St. Michael.

The church was a source of support for Allen, but he wasn't able to stay as active recently due to illness, Smith said.

Allen is survived by Smith, three sons, two daughters-in-law, four grandchildren and numerous friends.

A second memorial service for family and friends is scheduled for Dec. 6 at St. Michael the Defender. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to St. Michael the Defender Catholic Church, 935 Underwood Ave. SE, Atlanta, Ga. 30316.

Van Gower

spiritual resources

BAPTIST

OAKHURST BAPTIST CHURCH. Sundays, 11 a.m. 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur. 404-378-3677. www.oakhurstbaptist.org

CATHOLIC

CATHOLIC SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Sunday Eucharist, 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. Mon.-Fri. 12:10 p.m. 48 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW. 404-521-1866, www.catholic-shrineatlanta.org

ST. MICHAEL THE DEFENDER CATHOLIC CHURCH. Sunday mass 9:30 a.m. 1071 Delaware Ave. SE. 404-627-7212, www.stmichaelatlanta.org

EPISCOPAL

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL. Sundays, 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. with Holy Communion. 634 W. Peachtree. 404-881-0835, www.allsaintsatlanta.org

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY. Sundays, 8:45 and 11:15 a.m. 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-373-8338, info@epiphany.org

INTEGRITY/ATLANTA. Third Fridays, 7 p.m. All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta. 770-642-3183, integrityatlanta@yahoogroups.com

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Wednesdays 12:10 p.m.; Sundays, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. 1790 LaVista Rd. 404-634-3336, www.stbartsatlanta.org

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Sundays 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 6 p.m. 435 Peachtree St. NE 404-873-7600, www.stlukesatlanta.org

ST. PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Sundays, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 4755 North Peachtree Road. 770-455-6523, www.stpat.net.

JEWISH

CONGREGATION BET HAVERIM. Fourth Fridays, vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner 6:30 p.m. All other Fridays, Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave. 404-607-0054, www.congregationbethaverim.org

LUTHERAN

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH. Sunday 10:30 a.m. 1410 Ponce De Leon Ave. NE. 404-378-4243, www.stjohnsatlanta.org

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH. Sunday 10 a.m. 3264 Northside Parkway NW. 404-237-4413, www.slukeatlanta.org

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH. Sunday 11 a.m. 2716 Mechanics Ave. 912-354-6815, www.the-friendly-church.org

METHODIST

INMAN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Sundays, 10:55 a.m. 404-522-9322

SAINT MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Wednesday dinner 6:00 p.m., program. 6:45 p.m.; Sundays 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. 781 Peachtree St. NE. 404-873-2636, www.stmarkumc.org

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Sundays, 10:45 a.m. 265 Washington Street SW. 404-659-6236

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)

CHRIST COVENANT MCC. Sundays 11 a.m.; Wednesday, choir practice 7 p.m.; Thursdays, karate classes 7 p.m.109 Hibernia Ave. 404-373-2933, www.christcovenantmcc.org

FIRST MCC OF ATLANTA. Sundays 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Bible study 7 p.m., choir rehearsal 7 p.m., orchestra 7:30 p.m. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143, www.firstmcc.com

MCC AUGUSTA. Sundays, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. 311 7th Street, Augusta. 706-722-6454

OUR HOPE MCC. Sundays, 11 a.m. Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S. Lumpkin St., Athens. 706-202-3723

TRUTH CENTER MCC. Sundays, 11 a.m. Meets at Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger facility, 9 Gammon Ave. 770-951-1380, truthcentermcc@bellsouth.net

PRESBYTERIAN

CLIFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Bible study 7:30 p.m. 369 Connecticut Ave. 404-373-3253, cliftonchurch@mindspring.com, www.nighthospitality.net

DRUID HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Young adult Bible Study, 7:45 p.m. 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-875-7591, www.dhpc.org

NACOOCHEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Sundays, 10 a.m. 260 Hwy. 255 North, Sautee-Nacooche. 706-878-2226, www.nacoocheepresbysterian.org

ORMEWOOD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Educational opportunities, 9 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Worship, 11 a.m., Sanctuary. Monthly upper at 6 p.m., third Sunday.1071 Delaware Ave. SE, Atlanta. www.ormewoodparkpres.org. 404-627-2216

RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

DOUGLASVILLE CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays 11 a.m. at Hampton Inn, 6371 Douglas Blvd., Douglasville. 404-290-5041, westgacrs@mindspring.com

FIRST CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 11 a.m. 3025 Maple Dr. NE, Buckhead. 404-233-2061

MARIETTA/KENNESAW MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Wingate Inn - Magnolia Room, 750 Cobb Place Blvd., Kennesaw. 770-656-8467, revlarryhollis@hotmail.com

NORTH POINT CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 100 Hannover Park Road, Suite 160. 770-552-5889, www.npcrs.org

TRINITY CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE. Sundays, 11 a.m. Meets in Frazer Center. 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-296-6064

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, DAHLONEGA. Sundays, 11 a.m. 439 South Park Street. 706 864-0661, www.gmuuc.org

MOUNTAIN LIGHT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, ELLIJAY. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 3423 Turniptown Rd. 706-636-4935. www.mluuc.org

NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION. A welcoming congregation. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 1025 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NW. 770-955-1408, www.nwuuc.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ATLANTA. Sundays, 9:30 a.m. 1911 Cliff Valley Way (off I-85 N Access Road). 404-634-5134, www.uuca.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF GWINNETT COUNTY. Sundays, 11 a.m. 12 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. 770-717-7913, www.uucg.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF MARIETTA. Sundays, All-inclusive service, 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. 1240 Villa Rica Road. 770-528-9542, www.uucm.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION METRO ATLANTA NORTH. Sundays, 9:45, 11:30 a.m. 11420 Crabapple Rd., Roswell. 770-992-3949, www.uuman.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF ATHENS. Sundays 11 a.m. 706-546-7914

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF COLUMBUS. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 1442 Double Churches Road, Columbus. 706-660-1442

WEST GEORGIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP. Accepting and all-inclusive. Sundays 11 a.m. in the Country Hearth Inn conference room, 901 Hwy. 27 South, Carrollton. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WGUUF

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

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00 S500	Blk/Java	35k mi	03 SL500	Slv/Blk	2k mi
01 S430SPT	Wht/Java	35k mi	03 SL500	Magma/Blk	3k mi
02 S430	Blk/Java	20k mi	03 SL500	Pewter/Stone	4k mi
01 S430	Tectite/Ash	47k mi	03 SL500	Designo Slv	4k mi
00 S430	Slv/Gry	47k mi	02 SL500	Silver Arrows	21k mi
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editorial

Curious choice for a new HRC

After a decade of focus on branding and fund-raising but with little to show for it in political victories, HRC must **focus on winning** under its new leader.

By CHRIS CRAIN

SOME PRESIDENTIAL historians propose a theory that occupants of the White House from either party primarily play one of two roles: advancing an ideological agenda, or solidifying the change brought about by predecessors. Presidents like FDR, Reagan and Clinton would be "agenda advancers" under this theory, while others like Eisenhower, Carter and George H.W. Bush would be "institutional" types.

The same theory might also work to describe the role played by the presidents of gay rights groups like the Human Rights Campaign. Elizabeth Birch, who announced earlier this year that she would be leaving the post at the end of this year, was an overachiever of the "institutional" variety during her near-decade there. HRC grew exponentially during her tenure, by almost any measure: members, dollars, staffers and dominance within the movement.

To some degree, HRC under Birch became the group that ate the gay rights movement. The ubiquitous HRC "equals" sign is on more bumper stickers than rainbow flags, and this year the organization completed a move into permanent new headquarters, marking the first time any gay rights group had the wherewithal to mount a capital campaign of that type.

In fact, the new HRC building on Rhode Island Avenue is a fitting memorial to Birch's tenure, tens of millions spent to ensure institutional success for the agency instead of directly on achieving even the most basic federal civil rights legislation. That leaves a very clear challenge for her successor to "advance the agenda."

All those years of growth and success at HRC haven't resulted in the passage of either of the group's key legislative measures: workplace non-discrimination and a hate crimes bill. Almost every high profile policy effort the group has taken on has come up short: not just winning passage of landmark federal legislation but defeating anti-marriage amendments in Hawaii and California, and archconservatives like Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond.

Advancing our agenda in Washington will be an even greater challenge today. Republicans control both houses of Congress and their leadership, particularly in the House, is from the anti-gay wing of the party. President Bush has been the most gay-friendly Republican ever as president, but that says much more about his predecessors than it does about W.

ALL THAT MAKES THE CHOICE OF HRC's new executive director, announced last week, something of a head-scratcher.

In some ways, Cheryl Jacques has the right stuff: She comes from a political background and knows how to successfully move and pass legislation. By all accounts, she is an effective public speaker and will do well in her important role as a visible public advocate for gay civil rights measures.

HRC was right to resist the temptation to pick another Elizabeth Birch: someone from a corporate background who would bring a businesslike approach to building brand recognition and amassing dollars. Instead, the organization (and the movement) needed someone with political savvy, who can win the big battles and not just fight the good fight.

It's unfortunate, however, that someone with Jacques' political savvy and instinct wasn't more in charge of the selection process. If she had, it's doubtful that Jacques herself would have been selected.

HRC already faces a monumental challenge pushing through pro-gay legislation in today's political climate, as well as influencing next year's presidential and congressional races. But a Democrat from New England is going to be a small fish in Washington's big pond and very much out of the water.

Jacques is no leftie, to be sure. She is a former prosecutor who ousted a long-time GOP incumbent in a swing district.

But being a moderate Democrat in Massachusetts is somewhat unique. In fact, the gay Republicans from Massachusetts who have played a major role at Log Cabin — Rich Tafel, Abner Mason, Patrick Guerriero — are to the left of many moderate Democrats nationwide. Facing off with the likes of Tom DeLay and Karl Rove will be a real test for Jacques' political skills.

BEYOND THE PARTISAN ISSUE, THERE are some questions unique to Jacques that have already cast something of a cloud over her selection.

Probably the biggest concern is how recently she went public about her own sexual orientation. Three years is a very short time, and we all know from personal experience, as well as from seeing celebrity meltdowns like Ellen DeGeneres and Rosie O'Donnell, that the first few years after coming out are often emotional rollercoasters.

Another Elizabeth — Elizabeth Toledo — was selected to run another gay rights group — the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force — shortly after publicly coming out and ended up leaving her post after less than a year for undisclosed "personal reasons."

Jacques may well have been out for years to family and friends before she came out in the Boston Globe in 2000, but her unwillingness to talk at all about that private experience casts further doubt about whether she's ready for the inherently personal task that lies ahead. If she cannot speak openly and from the heart about her own experience as a lesbian, how can she reach out to other gays still in the closet? They are, after all, the most potent unused weapon in the gay rights arsenal.

Her short time out of the closet also raises questions about whether she is truly the best candidate to represent us. Others came out earlier, at greater political cost, and yet were apparently passed over. Jacques waited until her district was safe; what kind of example is that? More Rosie and Greg Louganis than Ellen and Melissa Etheridge.

Jacques does fall into the "lesbian mom" category that seems a virtual prerequisite to heading up gay rights groups these days. In addition to Birch and Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's longtime political director, there's Joan Garry of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. But if Jacques cannot find her voice when it comes to personal matters, that wonderful "family" image — however non-representative — will be of little benefit to HRC.

All of us who care about the future of the gay rights movement wish Jacques well in her new position. She faces some tremendous challenges to being effective as an "agenda advancer," but with the resources at HRC left to her by Birch, they are not insurmountable.

Chris Crain is executive editor of Southern Voice and can be reached at ccrain@window-media.com.

letters

Music isn't limited by listener's race

To the Editors:

On behalf of all black Americans who know better, I'd like to apologize for Terry Jennings' letter in the Oct. 31 issue ("White reviewer off on Aretha"). Apparently, Aretha Franklin is one of Jennings' true "divas," and he didn't take kindly to the unflattering review of her new CD.

But to argue that the author of this review, who is white, is somehow unable to understand Aretha because of his skin color, is ridiculously divisive.

My brotha, let me break it down: It was Burt Bachrach, a bonafide "honkey," who wrote "I Say A Little Prayer." He also appears on the Aretha album in question. "Spanish Harlem" was written by a musician named Jerry Leiber. Even "Natural Woman," one of Lady Soul's signature songs, is the work of a very soulful, and a very white Carole King.

As I sat and read this showcased stupidity, I couldn't help but hear the figurative white guy shouting in the back in the room, and it was hurting my ears. Without a doubt, it is offensive to tell white people to "stay in your genre and listen to Abba, Neil Diamond and the Pet Shop Boys."

Yes, there is plenty of our people's history and struggle catalogued in R&B Music: Donny Hathaway's "Young, Gifted and Black," Marvin Gaye's "Mercy, Mercy Me," and Aretha's "Respect."

But it's still music, and like the air we breathe, anyone can take it in, and appreciate.

STEVE OSUNSAMI
Atlanta

Don't forget family you already have

To the Editors:

I have been gay by choice and recently have been "coming out" or rather "being myself" to everyone — gay, straight, metro, whatever.

My issue is about family. This letter is to anyone trying to plan one.

I recently decided to plan a family. I pictured a wife, a few children, a single-family home. I'm sure you've seen this picture.

I planned to love this family. I planned to be open and honest about sexuality with this family. I planned to be dedicated to this family and its community.

When I had finished my plans, something unexpected happened. I realized I was already in love. Furthermore, I already had a family with whom I was open, honest and dedicated. Unfortunately, I refused to accept this most obvious truth while it was present.

Will I ever see myself in that family picture? I don't know. But I do know this. I don't exist to plan my family. I exist to complete one already there.

Accept love in whatever form it comes. It is a gift not from yourself. To ungraciously return it hurts only the receiver.

For what it's worth, when I returned my gift I learned this lesson. Fortunately, my gift was not in vain.

Love does not hurt — selfish pride does.

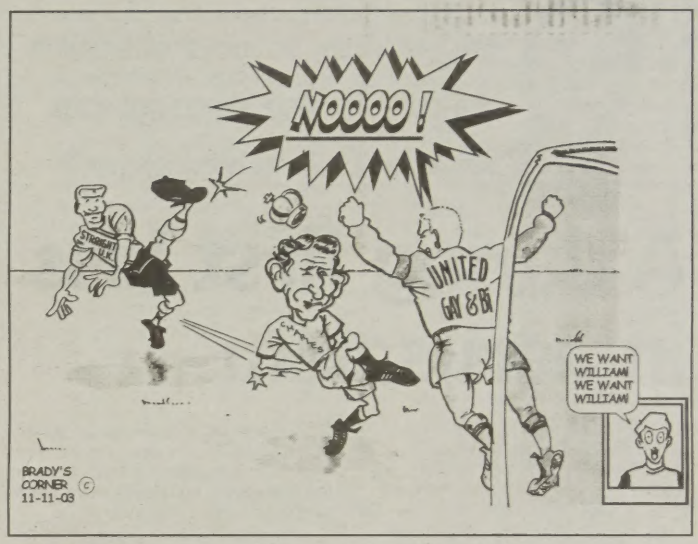
DAVIN OWENS
Atlanta

Toward a compassionate, imaginative Bible

To the Editors:

As a gay Episcopal priest, I wish to commend you on the recent editorial by Steve Weinstein ("Anglicans can't back down now," Oct. 24).

I think Weinstein described the controversy very accurately and with an excellent grasp of the issues involved. Since I assume he is not an Anglican, and probably not a Christian, I admire his ability to cut to the core of the matter, the interpretation of Scripture.



I agree with Weinstein entirely on the need to find a way to interpret the Bible that is imaginative, compassionate and just. Thanks for the contribution to that cause.

REV. JIM LODWICK
Atlanta

Gay blood ban serves no one

To the Editors:

Today with such a large need for blood, discriminating against anyone who is willing to donate is intolerable. ("'Transplant makes gay friends 'brothers,'" news, Oct. 24).

Gay men can donate organs and save a life, but we are still unable to donate blood that may save many more lives. The United States and its health agencies still will not let us give blood based on the outdated notion that all gay men carry STDs and the HIV virus.

Recent statistics show that homosexual men make up less than 50 percent of the cases of HIV/AIDS in the nation. The other, heterosexual part of the population is still allowed to donate even though they also constitute a majority of the AIDS cases in the country.

It is time these outdated practices were replaced with ones that will better serve those who need blood.

WESLEY DUMIRE
Washington

'THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN,' PAGE 65

THE Q

Questions about what's going on in **your** world

Interviews and photos by Van Gower

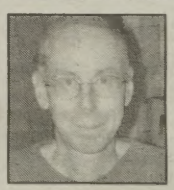
Are the gay personals billboards looming over Midtown too racy, or are they a positive example of gay visibility?

'It's a positive representation of the gay community. They're showing homosexuals can live a life as heterosexuals can. It's not any more sexual or any less sexual, it's just showing bonding between the same sex just as a heterosexual couple.'

Chase Daugherty, 16
Norcross

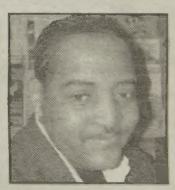
'It's positive in a sense that they're getting the gay thing out there. But at the same time, it's just representing a small portion of the gay population, the whole physical pretty-boy gay type. They don't really look at the younger or the older age groups of gay couples.'

Sara Grossman, 18
Tampa



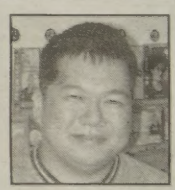
'It's positive and controversial. There are plenty of billboards that are much more explicit celebrating heterosexual sexuality. We need to get over the idea that owning up to our sexuality as gay men is somehow something to be covered up.'

Blake Hardy, 43
Atlanta



'I see it as where it would help the gays out. I don't see anything vulgar about it. By running the advertisement and putting it on the billboard, I think it would be excellent. I don't see it as just gay, I see it as good for selling a product.'

Fredrico Smith, 33
West End



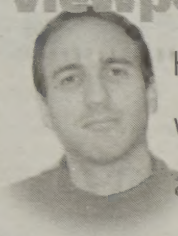
'It's a controversial negative stereotype of gays — promoting a certain type of look and promoting that men are hedonists, especially gays, and all they're looking for is sex. Gay.com and the corporate company that owns it focus more on information, and there are other things that are provided besides just chat rooms and hooking up.'

Henry Chuang, 22
Tucker

'It's a very positive representation of the gay community, and I think it's very tasteful and tactful. It's positive in the fact that we're here, and they're trying to let people know that we're here, and in the fact that it's not explicit.'

Monica Brown, 30
Atlanta

viewpoint OR GOREN



How I am hurting the holiness of Jerusalem with a kiss? The same holiness that makes a parent evict a son **for being 'different'**?

A daring first kiss in Jerusalem

MY FIRST KISS WAS IN FRONT OF A haredi event hall in the middle of Jerusalem. We stood there, he and I, in a slightly dark spot in the center of town. From the adjacent windows came the happy sounds of the event the haredim were celebrating: a wedding, bar mitzva.

At the end of the street, a group of border police passed by looking for people who want to blow themselves up. And me, I was standing there with him, apparently "provoking," "parading my perversions down the street," doing the thing that "most residents of Jerusalem find disgusting," that "the three religions see as a sin" — kissing the person I love.

It didn't feel like much of a provocation, though, as I was busy figuring out what exactly to do with my tongue, and if I'm supposed to stop breathing and for how long. I admit that within a few seconds I stopped paying attention to my breathing, and moved on to focus on the person in front of me — and even stopped thinking about the yeshiva boys or the soldiers who might see us.

Only a few weeks later did I realize the extensive importance of what I'd done. During a conversation with a cousin living abroad, he insisted on hearing the circumstances of my first kiss, so I gave him some details, and for modesty purposes, focused on describing the area and atmosphere.

My cousin, who occasionally acts like a Jewish mother, was impressed and proud of me, and hurried to share with his friends, acquaintances and random people on the street, the fact that "my cousin from Israel kissed a boy for the first time in front of a haredi event hall while uniformed soldiers patrolled around him."

IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SEE JERUSALEM from the perspective of people abroad, or even of those living outside the city. Jerusalem to me is home, the place where I grew up, the place where I went to first grade, the place I first fell in love and the place my heart was first broken.

But in the background, there is always the weird connection of the entire world to Jerusalem — those who think that all Jerusalemites do all day is pray and ride camels, and that the Messiah is roaming our streets waiting for his cue.

It seems that almost everyone who's ever heard of Jerusalem has an opinion about the city, and even more so, believes there's a part of it that's his.

That is why it's not surprising that so many feelings are aroused when people hear the word Jerusalem. "But why kiss in public in Jerusalem?" is the most common I've heard and probably will again many more times, including from my own mother.

"Jerusalem is a holy city," they say, and I wonder how I, Or Goren of Jerusalem, hurt the holiness of the city. However we look at it, the bottom line is that I am damaging its holiness. Before anyone actually marches, before the flags and the happening, before anything else is a young guy standing in Jerusalem, between a haredi hall and a police patrol, insulting the holiness of the city.

What kind of holiness is this that is hurt by two people in love?

IS THIS THE HOLINESS ON BEHALF OF which gay pride flags are vandalized, in the name of which insulting anti-gay graffiti is written in the streets? Or is it the holiness because of which young boys and girls are thrown out of their homes when they are discovered to be different?

I don't accept this definition of holiness. The holiness of Jerusalem, to me, is that which shines from the smiles of the people walking down the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall. The holiness I love in Jerusalem is the one for which tourists come to the city — Jewish, Christian and Muslim — to feel closer to their history, to their heritage, to their God.

And the holiness I love most is that of two people in love holding hands and kissing at the same spot where others did before them 100, 300, and 2,000 years ago.

If the whole world looks up to Jerusalem, and if the three religions see in Jerusalem a holy place, then here's our chance to contribute (again) to the holiness of the city.

The WorldPride that will take place in Jerusalem will bring together Jewish gay men, Christian lesbians and bisexual Muslims. WorldPride will invite transsexuals from Japan and questioning people from Iceland.

And although in their daily lives, many of these people are busy with wars, in the name of their nationality, religions or opinions, for this one week in 2005 all these people will come here with the one thing that unites them: their love.

I don't know anything holier than that.

@ **Or Goren** is a member of the Jerusalem Open House, organizer of the 2005 Jerusalem WorldPride. This article first appeared Oct. 27 in the Jerusalem Post.

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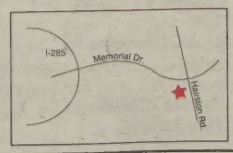

viewpoint PAULA MARTINAC

The right wing's winning bid to squash CBS' **'The Reagans'** infringes on our freedoms, but the left shouldn't adopt similar tactics.

Winning one for the Gipper

WHEN CBS, UNDER PRESSURE FROM the Republican right, made the unprecedented move of canceling the miniseries "The Reagans," freedom of expression took a nosedive.

Clearly, this indicates a need to redouble the effort against political censorship in this country. But that effort will also require human rights groups, including those in the gay movement, to question if their own tactics impinge on personal freedoms.

In the current political atmosphere, one respite for the left is popular culture, which remains relatively unaffected by the conservative onslaught. Indeed, much non-news-related TV programming is socially moderate and sometimes even left-leaning, providing just about the only "checks and balances" we have.

So the move by CBS came as a big jolt. It took only two weeks from when New York Times reporter Jim Rutenberg first disclosed details of the script of "The Reagans" — part of which depicted our 40th president's inaction during the early HIV/AIDS years — to the actual cancellation of the program.

In the wake of the network's decision, Rutenberg told National Public Radio that he was astonished by the swiftness of the cause-and-effect outcome: (1) he reported on the miniseries, (2) the right wing mobilized for a network boycott and (3) CBS caved.

OF COURSE, THE RIGHT HAS FLIRTED heavily with censorship before, but until now, its efforts have generally been in vain — for example, the campaign to get TV stations not to air the coming-out episode of "Ellen." Obviously, these censor wannabes needed the "right" subject to succeed, and a biopic about a popular ex-president who is dying was the one that clicked.

The precedent CBS has now set could easily embolden groups to make other politically motivated demands on TV programming. Indeed, some critics of the Reagan TV movie say they aren't satisfied that CBS sold the miniseries to its Viacom sister station, Showtime, even though that network is available by subscription only.

The Reagan "defenders" vow to continue fighting until the miniseries is canned altogether or runs with a scroll across the bottom of our TV screens announcing: "THIS IS A FICTIONAL ACCOUNT."

Forget that no biopic ever presumes to be a documentary; and forget that all biopics, and indeed virtually all movies inspired by historical events, contain elements of fiction.

IN WHAT SEEMS LIKE A MORE appropriate response to the Reagan miniseries than getting it yanked off the air, conservative filmmakers have plans to make a documentary called "The Real Reagans." The film will bear the GOP stamp of approval and air sometime during 2004 — conveniently timed to coincide with the election. It will, I'm sure, be a love fest for the Gipper.

And what if it glosses over — or, more likely, ignores — Reagan's lack of response to AIDS, infuriating all of us who lost friends and family to the disease? If that happens, I hope we will remember how incensed we've been at this recent censorship and refrain from re-adopting the "Stop Dr. Laura" tack of several years ago.

In that case, activists tried to get the TV talk show either axed or revamped along gay-acceptable lines. But in a society that values free expression, that's the wrong approach; we should instead give interviews, publish op-eds, write letters to the editor, or make other films that bring what we know about Reagan's deplorable AIDS record to light.

Ultimately, censorship is an infringement of someone else's rights, whether it comes from the right or the left. Let's use our voices and our keyboards to tell CBS that its recent move has put the freedoms of all Americans at risk.

Paula Martinac is an author and syndicated writer and can be reached at **PMcolumn@aol.com**.

viewpoint STEPHEN MCDONNELL

Celibate bishops and priests insist we **call them 'father'** but want to throw out of the house gay sons and lesbian daughters.

Bishops are not 'the church'

AS THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE of Catholic Bishops came together this week on Capitol Hill for its semi-annual meeting, gay and lesbian Catholics across the country waited to hear if the bishops will make further statements that abuse us, attempt to exclude those of us who are out, promote violence against us and neglect the care of our souls.

The abusiveness of these statements is similar to the abuse of power experienced in the sexual abuse by clergy and the cover-ups by bishops. These actions are examples of the abuses of patriarchy.

Celibate bishops and priests invite, and sometimes insist, that we call them "father." Yet they seem to want to throw their gay sons and lesbian daughters out of the house. Worse than that, they refer to us in the third person as though none of us is Catholic. Distancing us as they do, they scapegoat us.

There seems to be a direct correlation between the negative statements from church hierarchy to the advancement of our civil liberties. Statements from the USCCB and the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith followed closely upon the summer's U.S. Supreme Court decision in Lawrence vs. Texas, guaranteeing our right to privacy, as well as the legislation in Canada permitting gay marriage.

NOT COMING OUT, NOT ACCEPTING our personal truth, and not speaking or living our truth contribute to the self-contempt, depression, addictions and high-risk sexual behaviors that destroy our lives. As we come out in greater numbers, the public increasingly realizes that we have always been members of the church, of the clergy, and even of the hierarchy itself.

Here are some suggestions to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Catholics: To those who are just coming out, consider, "When our father throws us out of the house, does this truly mean that we don't belong to the family?"

There are Christian communities that serve as alternatives to parishes, such as those in the organization DignityUSA, in which we can protect ourselves as a group, support and remind each other of our goodness, and care for each other's spiritual needs.

We need to continue coming out, and advocating for our civil rights. But as we make gains in our civil rights, we can expect that we will hear more condemnation, full of humiliation and rage, from those who abuse their power.

JESUS MAY HAVE BEEN GAY HIMself; had a particular "beloved" disciple, and subverted family relationships based on blood alone. Biblical scholar Theodore Jennings, in his recently published book, "The Man Jesus Loved," suggests through a careful re-reading of the Christian Scriptures that these things are most likely so.

Bishops cannot exclude us from the church, no matter how many statements they make. Bishops are not "the church."

We must remind ourselves that we, with the bishops, are "the people of God"; it is a dogma promulgated by Vatican II, and as a teaching of an ecumenical council, it carries more authority than statements issued by national conferences of bishops or Roman congregations.

We alone, by rejecting the church's teachings and not practicing in its sacraments, can choose not to belong to the church. We could walk away from practicing our Catholicism, as many heterosexuals have done, because of the church's statements against women and reproductive rights.

I suggest that we address the bishops not as fathers, but as brothers. Only by such address, do we equalize power. We should say to them, "Brothers, stop abusing and neglecting your own. And you cannot throw us out, if we choose to stay."

Similar to other abusive family members, we may need to protect ourselves and our sisters and brothers from being hurt further by the bishops. We truly empower ourselves by taking care of ourselves, and speaking out.

Stephen McDonnell is a psychotherapist in Washington, D.C., and is a priest affiliated with DignityUSA, a gay Catholic group; he can be reached at **smcdonnell@wwc.org**.

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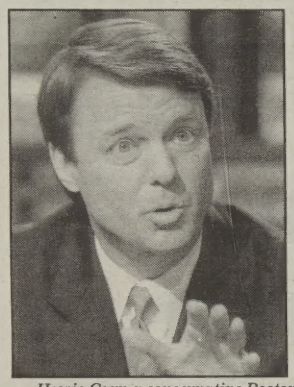


"We made extraordinary progress on civil rights [in the 1960s], but we didn't jump into affirmative action [at that time]."

Democratic presidential contender Sen. ***John Edwards*** *(N.C.), when asked how he would respond to GOP attacks on Democrats for backing same-sex civil unions (Washington Post, Nov. 12)*

"In case you were wondering how to pronounce it, Sen. Cheryl Jacques' last name rhymes with Fakes. Sometimes it's mispronounced Jacks, which rhymes with hacks, and that's an understandable mistake, given her family's roots in the hackerama. But at least Cheryl soon won't be our problem anymore — she's got a new job, as head of some gay-lesbian group, and what can we say except to quote the old country song: 'Thank God and Greyhound she's gone.'"

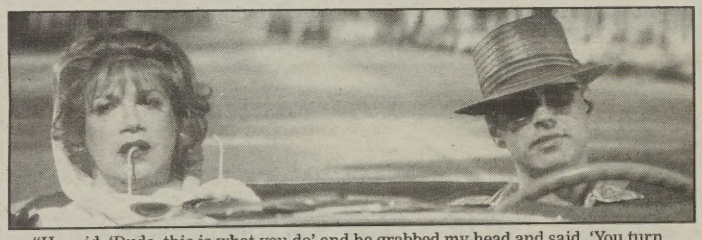
Howie Carr, a conservative Boston columnist, on the appointment of Jacques as the new president and executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (Boston Herald, Nov. 5)

"You know what happens to people who lie? They get sick and they get cancer. If they keep lying, they get it again."

Lesbian comedian Rosie O'Donnell, as quoted in trial testimony by Cindy Spengler, a cancer survivor who was head of marketing at Rosie magazine; O'Donnell admits lashing out at Spengler but says she called to apologize the next morning (Associated Press, Nov. 5)

"Your mother died of breast cancer. Was she lying?"

Cindy Spengler's reply to O'Donnell, as testified to in court; Spengler said O'Donnell responded, "Yes" (Associated Press, Nov. 5)



"He said, 'Dude, this is what you do' and he grabbed my head and said, 'You turn your head to the right, I turn my head to the left and we just do it.'"

Drag actor ***Charles Busch****, on how actor* ***Jason Priestley*** *took charge in their kissing scene in "Die, Mommie, Die" (AP Radio, Nov. 6)*

"We would not pretend to tell the government how to run the military. The military should not be telling us how to run law schools."

Kent Greenfield, a Boston College law professor and president of the Forum for Academic & Institutional Rights, on a legal challenge to a federal law that bans all funding from universities with law schools that prohibit on-campus recruiting by the military due to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (Washington Post op-ed, Nov. 10)

"The weakening of the institution of marriage has already had too high a social cost. Radically redefining marriage will simply serve to intensify the assault on marriage and the American family. ... Any redefinition of marriage must be seen as an attack on the common good."

Boston's Roman Catholic Archbishop Sean Patrick O'Malley, in his first public comments on gay issues since his installation earlier this year after his predecessor, Cardinal Bernard Law, resigned amid the clergy sex abuse scandal (Associated Press, Oct. 3)

"I've been with a guy in a serious relationship for the last two years, but I do think women are very sexy so I don't really know how to answer that question. Are you?"

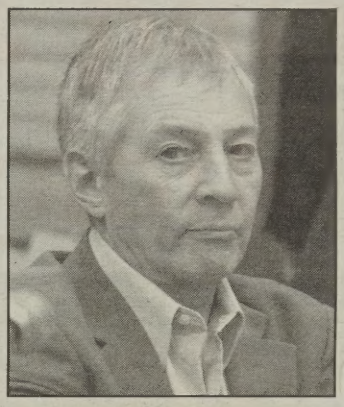
Pop singer-songwriter ***Pink****, when asked if she's a lesbian (Associated Press, Nov. 3)*

action! alert

Crossdressing or disguise?

Media focus on Durst's dresses, instead of the dismembered body

By BRYAN ANDERTON



New York millionaire **Robert Durst** was acquitted this week of fatally shooting an elderly neighbor. Many news reports labeled Durst a 'cross dresser' because he briefly disguised himself as a woman. (Photo by Pat Sullivan/AP)

THE TRIAL OF MILLIONAIRE ROBERT Durst received mountains of press leading up to Durst's acquittal this week, with many news outlets labeling him a "cross-dresser" because he once briefly disguised himself as a woman in an attempt to elude police after officials reopened an investigation into the 1980s disappearance of Durst's wife.

Some gay activists say the media "sensationalized" reports of Durst's cross-dressing and exaggerated its importance to the case.

Durst was acquitted this week in the murder of his elderly neighbor, 71-year-old Morris Black. Durst, 60, said he discovered Black in his apartment Sept. 29, 2001, holding a gun. Durst testified that he tried to wrestle the gun from Black, but the gun went off during the scuffle, killing Black.

Durst admitted that he then cut Black's body into pieces with an axe and two saws, and then dumped the parts into the Galveston Bay.

Nearly every news story that covered Durst's arrest and subsequent trial made mention of the fact that Durst moved to Galveston, Texas, from New York and lived there as a mute woman for a short time after the investigation into his first wife's 1982 disappearance was reopened in November 2000.

Whether Durst dressed as a woman to avoid police detection or because he is truly a cross-dresser has been debated. Durst was dressed as a woman when he first met Black, but later struck up a friendship with the neighbor as a man.

In many news stories, however, the term "crossdresser" was routinely used to describe Durst.

The sensationalistic details, often plastered on the covers of supermarket tabloids, were also found in more mainstream news outlets. In fact, an article on the Web site for the ABC News affiliate KTRK-TV in nearby Houston ran under the headline, "Crossdresser testifies he was drunk when he cut up neighbor."

BUT SOME GAY AND TRANSGENDER rights activists have said that the press was wrong to make the connection between the killing and Durst's possible life as a crossdresser, if in fact he was a crossdresser or just briefly dressing as a woman as a disguise.

"It doesn't appear that that was relevant to him being a murderer, that he was a crossdresser," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "It still shows that we're in a phase where the media likes to sensationalize transgender lives and transgender issues."

Others said the fact that Durst was a cross-dresser is relevant, but protested the "sensationalization" of that fact by the media.

"Obviously, 'cross-dresser' is not a negative term, as long as it is used accurately, and I think this is one of the few times when the media has used the appropriate terminology," said Michael Young, northeastern regional media manager for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

GLAAD defines "cross-dressing" as "to occasionally wear clothes traditionally associated with people of the other sex. Cross-dressers are usually comfortable with the sex they were assigned at birth and do not wish to change it."

"But, having said that," Young continued, "the tabloid media have tended to sensationalize just that side of the story, while more reputable news outlets have reported it as part of the larger story, or not at all."

While many news outlets mentioned Durst's cross-dressing just as a side note, some delved much deeper, even going so far as to tell stories about embarrassing situations Durst found himself in while dressed as a woman.

Such accounts included Durst being discovered as a non-mute man after striking up a conversation with a female librarian, having to stomp out his wig after it caught on fire in a bar, and accidentally using a stand-up urinal in a men's room while wearing a dress.

Young said that using those details in such a way could potentially be harmful to transgendered people who already face scrutiny in their everyday lives.

"I think sensationalizing these issues is definitely not a positive thing," Young said.

ABOUT ACTION ALERT: Action Alert is a Forum section feature that informs readers of issues for response and lobbying. Send suggestions and comments to forum@sovo.com.

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YOU GOT A FAST CAR: Luxury automobiles boast price tags up to $1M, if drivers are so inclined. **Page 59**

BY THE BI: Bisexual singer-activist **Skott Freedman** releases collaborative CD with diverse artists. **Page 43**

Surfing for a holi-gay

Travelers increasingly turn to Internet, gay agents to plan gay-specific vacations

By MIKE FLEMING

Being able to show affection while on vacation is the number one priority for gay travelers, according to industry experts who specialize in the gay market. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

WITH THANKSGIVING RAPIDLY APPROACHING and the December holidays around the corner, the winter travel season is in full swing for gays who are increasingly targeted by the travel industry for their perceived higher disposable income.

Identifiable travel receipts from gay U.S. customers in 2002 were more than $55 million, and that number is significantly higher this year, according to Robert Wilson, executive director of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association.

"Gay men and lesbians travel much more than the mainstream and are more knowledgeable," Wilson says. "They have fewer responsibilities, they are better educated, and most of the large travel organizations now have dedicated people to handle gay customers and their specific needs."

A comfort level with being openly gay — being able to hold hands, kiss and show affection while on vacation — is the number one factor in planning a trip for gay travelers, Wilson says.

"They want to feel comfortable and not be embarrassed," he says. "They want to be surrounded by service personnel who are used to it."

Dave Aldrich/Thorpe, a gay travel agent with Designs Travel in Manassas, Va., agrees.

"I make a point of getting to know my customer and what they're looking for," he says. "Do they want to feel free to look longingly in their partner's eyes in a low-key weekend, or do they want a frisky blowout with lots of people where they can be totally out in the gay world?"

AS MARKETERS OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES in every industry increasingly seek a chunk of the gay dollar, the travel industry is one of the most visible. And more and more gay travelers use gay-specific Internet sites to make plans.

"Web-based travel companies provide booking engines and contacts so that travelers can make their own arrangements, or travelers can do their own research on their destination so they can be knowledgeable before calling an agent," Wilson says.

The Internet is a boon for the industry, Wilson says. The IGLTA Web site receives more than 50,000 hits a day from surfers looking for affiliated agents and services, he says. More than 1,000 agents nationwide belong to IGLTA, and as many as 300 members have "dedicated sites" for gay travelers, according to Wilson.

A cursory Internet search for "gay travel" yields thousands of hits. Of the Internet giants, Orbitz and Travelocity have microsites designed specifically for gay travelers. America Online uses keyword "Gay Travel" to link to Travelocity.

Gay.com has its own travel site, Zoom Vacations, to help travelers find and book trips with a gay bent. The site also features "Honeymoon Packages," tours, accommodations and details on destinations that its staff personally researches.

The huge Just-Travel-Links site has a gay page with links to more than 500 travel sites that target gay consumers. And new sites come onboard weekly, including "FlightFairy.com" and BluWay.com, both based in Atlanta.

"It is our understanding that the gay and lesbian marketplace has the money and plan trips more meticulously than average travelers," says Bob Hope, founder of FlightFairy.

Hope's site, which is not gay-owned, caused some controversy over its name when it launched in August, and the site does not use the word "gay." But BluWay and others go out of their way to make sure Internet researchers know their intent with photos of same-sex couples and extensive use of the words "gay" and "lesbian."

BluWay.com went live in December 2001 and also hosts SisterTrip.com for women and QGuys.com, an Internet personals site for men.

"When we started, there was a whole variety of different Web sites, but they were all pulling for themselves," says Alex Khodorkovsky, president of BluWay, Inc.

"There was not a single portal you could go to directly to find information if you didn't know where to go for basic research or to book a trip," he says. "The big companies require you to go to their main site first and find the gay content. We wanted to unite our divided community and give them all a forum to present themselves."

Some Internet travel companies also spend hundreds of thousands of advertising dollars — including national television advertising by Orbitz and Travelocity — to promote their sites. Orbitz joined with gay marketing agency Blue Door Productions in September to better market their gay microsite to gays on holiday. A new print and broadcast campaign is expected next year, according to a statement issued by both companies.

But as the power of the Internet increases, most of BluWay's customers find the site rather than the other way around, Khodorkovsky says.

"There's a whole segment of the population that only likes to book on the Internet and purchase and do research online," he says. "Even without advertising, people are seeking us out and finding us. There is a definite trend in that direction now, and our site basically sustains itself by people seeking us out."

Khodorkovsky's company is gay owned, and though he hosts some straight agencies as well as his gay sites, he started BluWay to "give back to the community," he says.

"When we started, we noticed how split and separated and overly jealous the gay travel industry can be," he says. "We want to change that and have a forum for everyone to coexist and be more community oriented. Everyone should realize that it's the common voice that will help increase sales for everybody."

BUT GAY TRAVEL AGENTS WARN THAT relying on Internet research without consulting an expert could turn dream vacations into nightmares.

Please see **GAY TRAVEL** on **Page 57**

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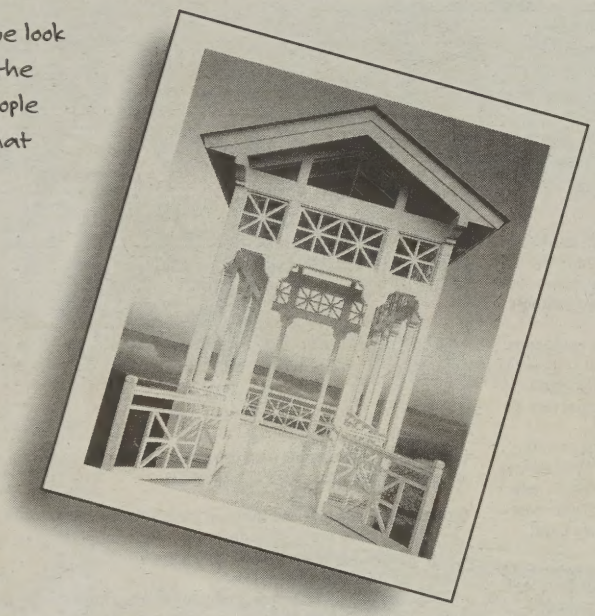

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film clips

The 16th annual Out on Film gay film festival continues through Nov. 16 at the newly refurbished Midtown Art Cinema, 931 Monroe Drive, 404-872-6100.

FRIDAY NOV. 14

'Put the Camera On Me' — 7 p.m.
A peek into the power structure within a group of kids.

'Suddenly' — 7:30 p.m.
Knowing female punk rockers kidnap a salesgirl.

'Robin's Hood' — 9:30 p.m.
A social worker is swept up in an affair with a lesbian thief.

'Bulgarian Lovers' — 10 p.m.
A 40-year-old gay man finds big trouble with a sexy 23-year-old Bulgarian man.

SATURDAY NOV. 15

'The Edge of Each Other's Battles: the Vision of Audre Lorde' — 1 p.m.
A tribute to the lesbian African-American poet.

'Of Men and Gods' — 1:30 p.m.
A look at gay culture in present-day Haiti.

'Intentions' — 3 p.m.
A professor and her graduate student awaken suppressed emotions.

'Fun in Boys' Shorts' program — 3:30 p.m.
Short films geared toward gay men.

'Some Real Heat' — 5:30 p.m.
Real life female firefighters in San Francisco.

'My Life On Ice' — 6 p.m.
A 16-year-old boy explores his daily life with a video camera.

'Gasoline' — 7 p.m.
A young woman finds romance with a tough, sexy female mechanic.

'AKA' — 8:30 p.m.
A youth escapes a working class suburb to assume the identity of another boy.

'Rise Above: the Tribe 8 Documentary' — 9:30 p.m.
'Dyke Punk Rock Band' Tribe 8 hits the road.

SUNDAY NOV. 16

'The Gift' — 1 p.m.
Looks at phenomenon among gay men who deliberately give and receive HIV.

'Between Two Women' — 1:30 p.m.
Housewife falls for son's art teacher.

'Totally Sexy Loser' — 3:30 p.m.
Two young men struggle with breakup as one tries to end 45th relationship.

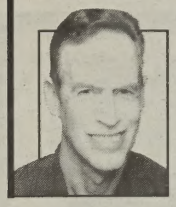
'Simon and I' — 4 p.m.
Portrait of black South African gay activist Simon Nkoli and protégé Bev Ditsie.

'Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World' — 6 p.m.
Looks at emerging global gay rights movement.

'Fun in Girls Shorts' program — 6 p.m.
Short films geared toward lesbians.

'Die Mommie Die!' — 8:30 p.m.
Gay playwright Charles Busch stars as 'Hollywood Legend' Angela Arden.

film STEVE WARREN



New films spur controversy over **who was gay** and who was not in recent and ancient history.

School is 'out'

IN THE COURSE OF GAY DIRECTOR Gus Van Sant's "Elephant," my notes changed from words like "frustrating," "excruciating" and "maddening" to praise like "amazing," "chilling," "challenging" and "brilliant."

It's easy to see why Europeans would applaud "Elephant" (it won the Palme d'Or at Cannes). In addition to dealing with one of their favorite themes — America's obsession with guns — the film violates all of Hollywood's rules.

Van Sant shoots in the almost-square ratio that went out half a century ago and uses long tracking shots in which virtually nothing happens except someone walking from Point A to Point B.

In this story of a Columbine-style school shooting, the filmmaker sometimes goes out of his way to avoid showing anything happening. Instead of a plot, he offers a series of school snapshots that appear to be chronological — until we find out they're not.

It soon becomes clear that our long, aimless walks acquaint viewers with a number of students and the school's country club-like campus. This new narrative style is likely to be imitated in years to come.

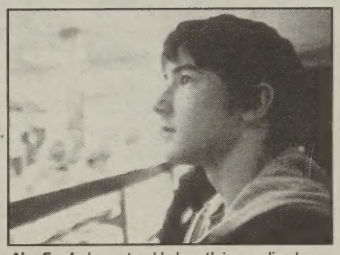
THE FIRST CHARACTERS WE MEET are John (John Robinson), whose drunken father (Timothy) makes him late for school. We also meet Elias (Elias McConnell), who spends his time taking pictures and developing them in the school darkroom. Their paths cross once, briefly, in a scene that will prove to be pivotal.

Nathan and Carrie are a couple of the typical prom king and queen variety. Brittany, Jordan and Nicole are self-centered mall rats who eat lunch in the cafeteria, then go to the bathroom and throw it up.

At the other end of the social spectrum are Michelle (Kristen Hicks), a geek who won't wear shorts to gym; Alex (Alex Frost), who gets stuff thrown at him in the film's only classroom scene; and Eric (Eric Deulen), who spends all his time at Alex's house.

Then the shooting starts. Well, first our killers-to-be kiss passionately in the shower before embarking on their mission. This seems to suggest they're gay, but Van Sant told a press conference at the New York Film Festival that's not the case. His explanation that the kiss shows the intense intimacy of the boys' relationship didn't convince me.

The combination of the shower kiss and a conversation at a Gay-Straight Alliance meeting leaves the impression that "Elephant" is a movie about two gay guys who shoot up a school. The kiss isn't worth demonizing this nearly brilliant film.



Alex Frost plays a troubled youth in gay director Gus Van Sant's chilling 'Elephant,' which presents a Columbine High School-like scenario of middle America.

A LOT OF CONTENT IN "THE GOSPEL of John" can be misinterpreted with various amounts of stretching to indicate that Jesus was gay. His love of John, known as "the Beloved Disciple," could be one indicator.

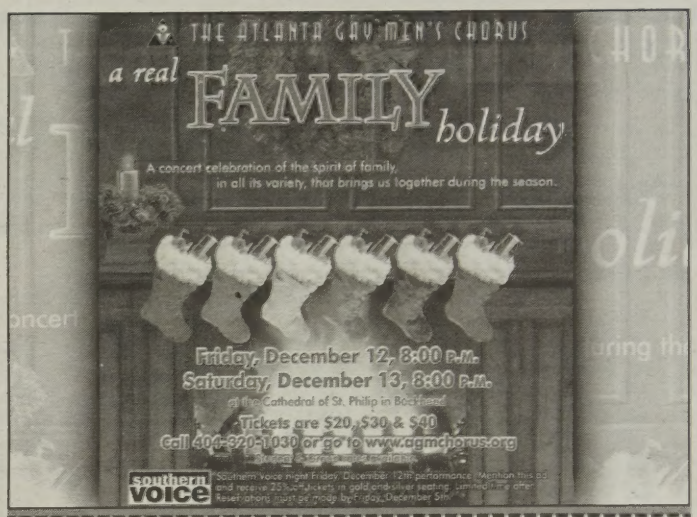
You could also read something into, "Jesus' disciples returned and were greatly surprised to find him talking with a woman," or Jesus saying, "Whoever eats me will live because of me."

"The Gospel of John" is a three-hour epic that boasts of having brought the entire book to the screen, literally word for word, with its redundancies intact. That's no guarantee of a lack of interpretation, and the filmmakers bend over backwards to avoid charges of anti-Semitism.

MORE INFO

'Elephant'
★★★☆
Landmark Midtown Art Cinema
931 Monroe Drive
404-872-6100
Queer Quotient: The gay director denies the killers are gay, despite celluloid evidence to the contrary. A Gay-Straight Alliance meeting gets some screen time, and when Eli asks to photograph an apparently straight couple, the guy suggests all three of them get naked.

'The Gospel of John'
★★½ ☆
Queer Quotient: You'll have to misinterpret the film as zealously as the religious right does scripture to see anything gay in the film, but at least it's not homophobic.
In wide release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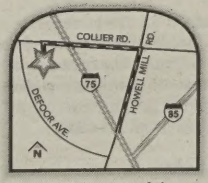

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television DAN MILLER

Gay fashion designer **Isaac Mizrahi** isn't obvious choice for **talk show**, but is cut from fabric for success.

A unique, stylish show

PREDICTABILITY IS KILLING THE talk show format. There's a host, a desk, a few wacky skits and some celebrity guests who are there to plug their latest project.

The hosts are slight variations on the same archetype: a slightly goofy wiseass who can schmooze with the Hollywood-types and read jokes off cue cards.

Gay fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi may not seem like an obvious candidate for the role, but his eccentric, interesting and optimistic show breaks all the rules in the right ways.

"The Isaac Mizrahi Show" isn't aiming to tweak the format. The designer creates a new one all his own.

There are familiar talk show elements, including celebrity guests and a coffee table for discussion. But what sets Mizrahi apart from Jay Leno, David Letterman, Conan O'Brien and the others is what makes his show work.

There's no studio audience, save the occasional laughter from the crew behind the camera. There's no band, just a piano player who sits in the background and is often just part of the scenery.

Most conspicuously, there's no set for the show, just a blank canvas of white in the background.

The program airs on Oxygen, the female-oriented cable channel co-founded by the queen of talk shows, Oprah Winfrey.

DESPITE THE SHOW'S INNOVATIVE format, Mizrahi himself is the gay ringleader who runs this circus. He has a manic energy, flamboyance, effortless wit and a childlike excitement that makes the show a joy to watch. He's smart, fun and hip without being condescending — the kind of guy everyone wants as a best friend.

Most of the show's energy comes from the way Mizrahi interviews — and entertains — his guests. Rather than chitchatting over a desk, he takes field trips or plans activities to prevent the interview from getting dull.

Whether he's painting with rapper Lil' Kim, eating cupcakes with actress Maggie Gyllenhaal (who appeared in Steven Shainberg's 2002 drama "Secretary") or shopping with Debra Messing from "Will & Grace," Mizrahi's interviews aren't a series of droll anecdotes and blatant movie or TV plugs.

And Mizrahi isn't courting the usual Hollywood A-list set. He tends to gravitate toward the more artsy, quirkier set.

Clothing designer **Isaac Mizrahi** breaks all the rules in the right ways with his eccentric, interesting and optimistic talk show. (Photo by Jim Copper/AP)

He welcomed snarky comedian Janeane Garofalo, actor Paul Rudd (Phoebe's fiancé on "Friends" and the co-star who portrayed a gay character in "The Object of My Affection"), Andrea Martin (who played Aunt Voula in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"), and New York Times crossword editor Will Shortz.

UNLIKE LENO AND LETTERMAN, cutting-edge comics in their heyday who now kiss the butt of any hack with a film to plug, Mizrahi seems to genuinely love every one of his visitors. He greets his guests like a well-trained Labrador: He's visibly giddy but restrains from slobbering over people too much.

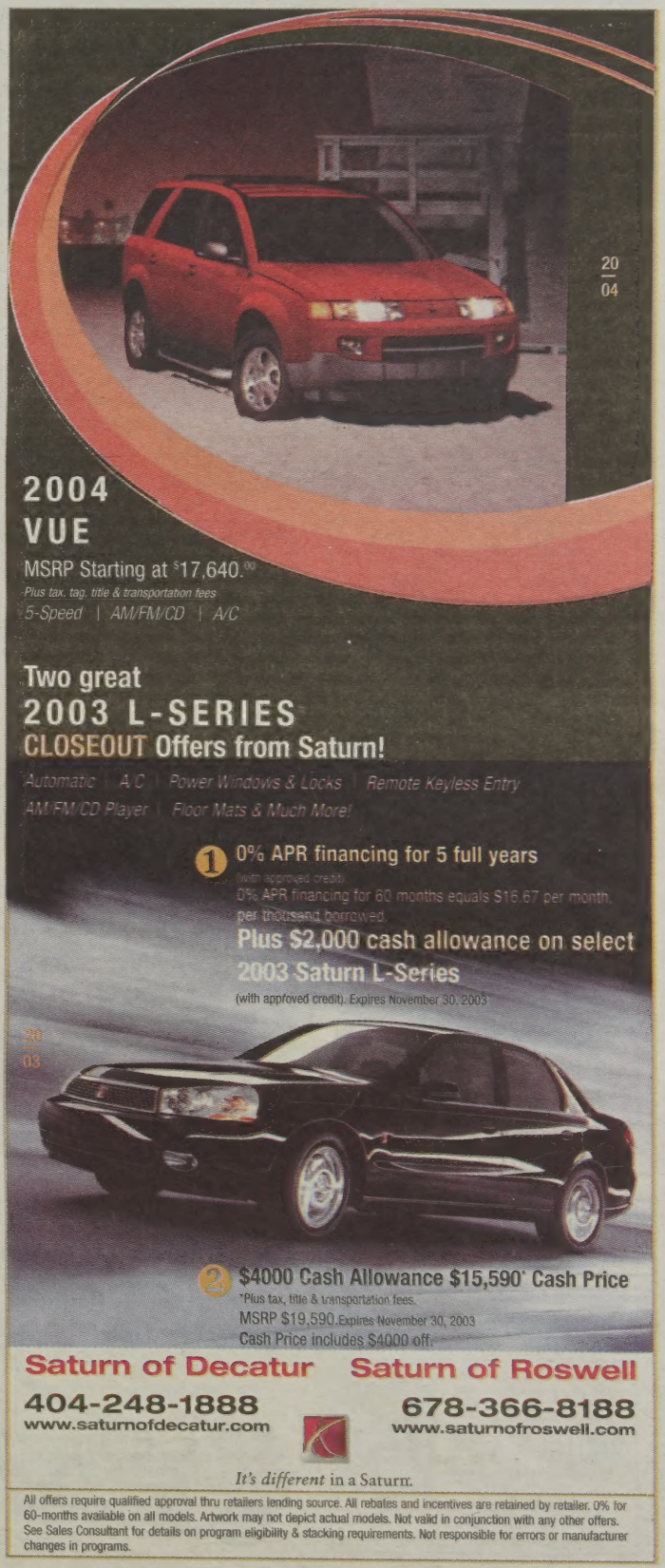
Mizrahi's candid interviews show more than his guests' public faces. He gets them in their element, rather than faking it on a sterile soundstage, and discusses their eccentricities, likes and dislikes.

At 30 minutes per episode, the show doesn't contain hokey skits for filler, and the end always comes too soon. The brevity is refreshing, but Mizrahi's exuberance may leave viewers wanting interviews to last a bit longer.

This is a tiny criticism, given that Mizrahi packs his timeslot with briskly paced entertainment.

Lighthearted without being silly, intelligent without being pompous, Mizrahi designed a talk show rarity — a genuinely entertaining program that neither saves the world nor insults viewers' intelligence.

MORE INFO
'The Isaac Mizrahi Show'
Oxygen Network
Weekdays, 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.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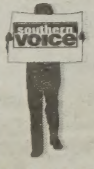

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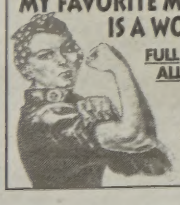

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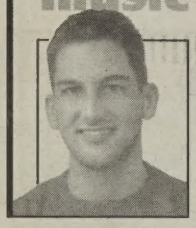

Bisexual singer releases latest CD that represents departure for artist as **first-time producer**, collaborator.

Musical celebration of diversity

SKOTT FREEDMAN IS A MAN WITH A mission. The singer/songwriter and bisexual activist believes there is still a great deal of ignorance about bisexuality, and he wants to use music to create a wider acceptance.

"I want to make people understand that there is more to the GLBT community than just gays and lesbians," Freedman says.

Freedman put his music where his mouth is when he compiled "Bi The People," a collection of songs by bisexual artists and friends benefitting the Bisexual Foundation, a national nonprofit organization based in San Diego, Calif.

The CD marks the first time Freedman, 24, produced an album.

"My objective was not necessarily to pick the best songs," Freedman says. "I had to pick songs that would create a nice overall balance on the record. I wanted a variety of styles, from rock to jazz and from punk to pop."

Singer **Skott Freedman** took his bisexual activism on the road with lectures and now offers a compilation CD with songs from popular gay, straight and bisexual artists. (Photo courtesy of Vy Records)

"BI THE PEOPLE" INCLUDES A RANGE of different emotions that capture the spirit of earnest songwriting. Stand-out tracks are Freedman's heartfelt ballad "The Price You Paid," the raw and radical "Secret Candy" by Bitch & Animal and Melissa Ferrick's introspective "Fighting Chance."

Other contributors are Laura Love, Pansy Division, Rachel Sage and violinist Ashley MacIsaac, as well as Jim Verranos, who was one of the finalists on the first season of "American Idol."

The track "Dick and Jane" by Australian Laya Fisher best represents the album, Freedman says.

"It is a very bi-specific song and expresses pride about being bisexual," he says.

Aside from producing, Freedman is also an accomplished vocalist. He put out three records that received critical acclaim in the gay media, including his independent debut "Swimming After Dark" in 1999 and "Anything Worth Mentioning" in 2002.

It was very important for Freedman to include gay and straight musicians as well as bisexual artists like himself on "Bi The People," he says.

"I believe in inclusiveness," Freedman says. "The whole point was to include artists that support the cause no matter what their sexual orientation is."

Often, bisexual people are overlooked or not taken seriously, he says.

"Even in minority communities, there are minorities that exist within that community," Freedman asserts. "We are all part of the same movement, the same GLBT group, and we need to pull together to achieve our goals in terms of equal rights."

THE SINGER TAKES HIS MISSION ON the road, speaking to college crowds and others about stereotypes with his lecture "Battling Biphobia and Bringing Bisexuals Back to Both Communities."

Music played an important role in Freedman's life. He initially came out as bisexual at age 18.

"I think Ani DiFranco has really inspired me," Freedman says. "A lot of her lesbian fans let her down after she married a man. She taught me that is okay to be who you are no matter what."

Freedman does not care if his own music career is affected by his bisexual activism, he says.

"My sexuality works for and against me," he explains. "I have a lot of GLBT fans who love my music. Big record companies will sign me to their label if they have an opportunity to make money no matter what sexuality or fan base I have."

In the end, "Bi The People" is a reflection of human nature, the artist says.

"We are all diverse and different, Freedman says. "That should be celebrated and not conformed."

'Bi The People' is available for purchase online at Amazon.com and other retailers.

MORE INFO

'Bi The People'
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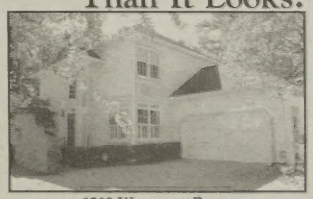

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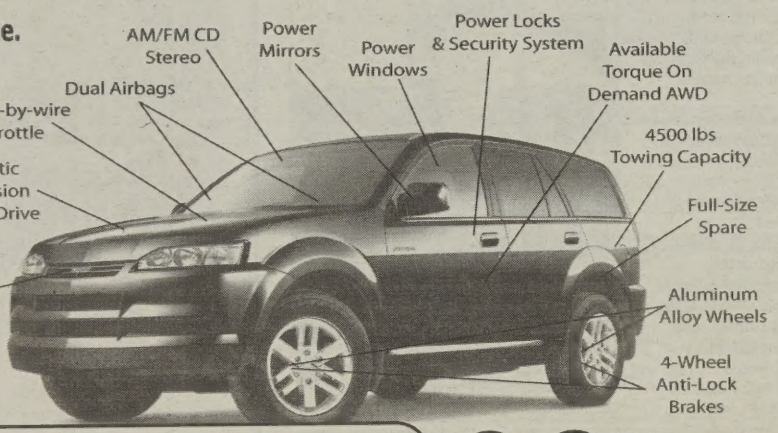

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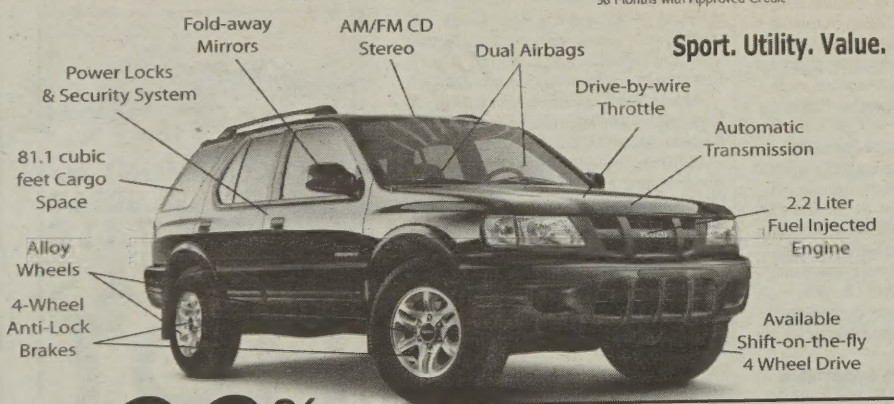

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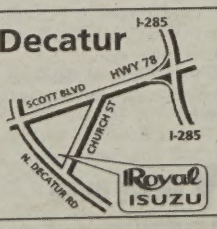

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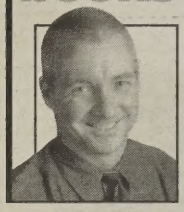


Gay author of 'Gods and Monsters' takes on **New York thespians** in farcical novel with a serious side.

Slice of theater life

THE TITLE OF CHRISTOPHER BRAM'S latest novel is taken from the W.B. Yeats poem that famously concludes with the line about "the foul rag and bone shop of the heart."

But there's nothing foul or ragged about "Lives of the Circus Animals," the gay author's affectionately merciless comedy of manners about the New York theater world.

The author — whose novel "Father of Frankenstein" was made into the Oscar-winning gay movie "Gods and Monsters" — proves to be as charming as his prose.

"The novel was fun to imagine," Bram tells Southern Voice from his home in Manhattan. "But it was hard to write, because there are so many plotlines. It was like herding cats.

"Once I started writing it, I realized I'd been preparing for this book my whole life," he adds.

Bram knows more than a thing or two about actors, writers and the collective exercise in performance art known as Manhattan. The complexities and subtleties, sprawling set pieces and achingly intimate moments of "Lives of the Circus Animals" are confidently crafted.

There are at least a dozen major characters and almost as many plot lines in this rowdy — and occasionally, quite moving — romp of a book, but Bram keeps the cavalcade moving merrily.

There's Jessica, the personal assistant to British stage legend Henry Lewse, who's starring in a smash piece of "gilded crap" on Broadway and is having an affair with Toby, an actor/go-go boy who's the former boyfriend of Jessie's brother Caleb, whose most recent play bombed with the critics.

Jessie is having an on-again, off-again affair with Frank, a struggling director whose experimental theater piece (starring Toby) is being staged in a downtown apartment.

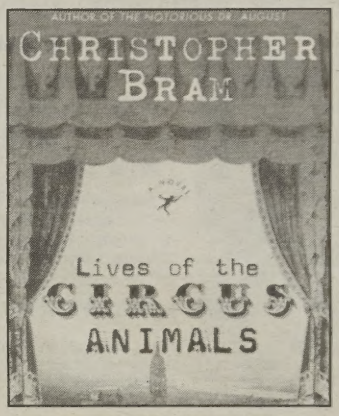
AN EXUBERANT ARRAY OF CONNECtions and coincidences lends "Lives of the Circus Animals" the effervescent ambience of farce, and like great farce, the novel is frothy, sexy and shot through with wit. It's got a knowing, "All About Eve" sort of sass, and it serves up tasty tidbits of dish.

Bram describes himself as having "always been in love" with the theater.

"I still like being around actors," he says, noting that Draper Shreeve, his partner of 20 years, is a former actor.

Actors "are like the rest of us ... only moreso ... I think we're all actors," Bram says. "We're all posing and trying different roles. We're just not as aware of it as actors are."

But "Lives of the Circus Animals" is not only about thespians. Its lively, deftly drawn and engaging characters also include one Kenneth Prager, a second-string theater reviewer for the New York Times — fear and loathing of which is one of the book's many running gags.



Blending gay and straight characters was a natural choice when lampooning Manhattan theater life in 'Lives of the Circus Animals,' according to gay author Christopher Bram.

"LIVES OF THE CIRCUS ANIMALS" ALSO has a serious side. Caleb begins writing a play in the form of a dialogue with Ben, the partner he lost to AIDS several years earlier. These deeply felt passages were informed by "the experience of friends" who lost partners to the epidemic, Bram says.

"I realized the book was getting really dark — in a way that I like," Bram says.

And the serious scenes, which touch on aging, creativity and intimacy, provide the comedy with "ballast," according to the author.

Another striking element is the novel's seamless integration of gay and straight plotlines and characters.

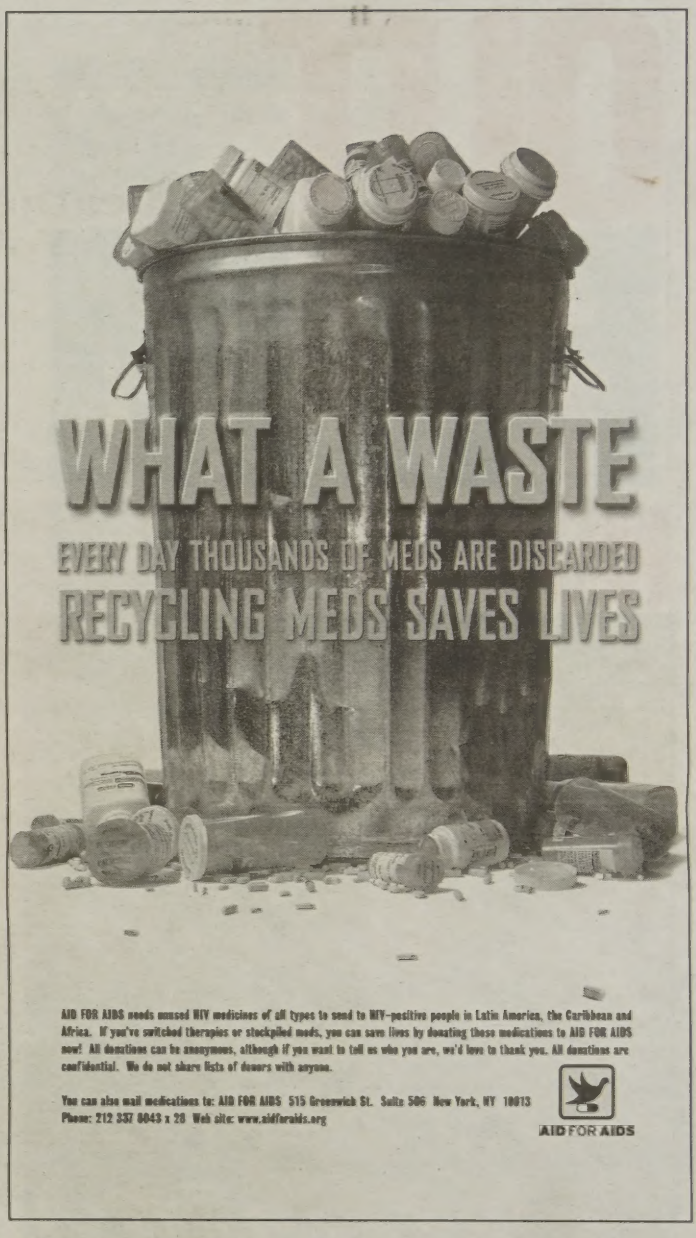
"The theater is like a gay-straight utopia," Bram says. "Gay and straight people have been working together in the theater for years, and it's no big deal."

Other characters in the book were inspired by actual, even legendary, theater folk, according to Bram. "Gods and Monsters" starred gay actor Ian McKellan, but Bram declined to say whether he was the inspiration for Henry.

"I'll leave the reader to speculate," he says.

MORE INFO

'Lives of the Circus Animals'
by Christopher Bram
William Morrow Publishing
352 pages
$24.95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NOV 12 WEDNESDAY

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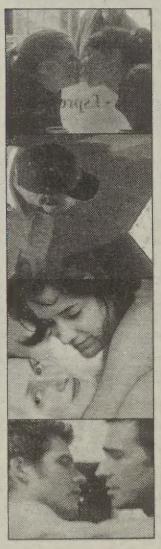
NOV 13 THURSDAY



7:00 PM GOLDFISH MEMORY

When Clara sees her boyfriend Tom kissing Isolde, it sets off a chain reaction of romances and heartbreaks until the entire cycle has turned full circle, with each of the film's characters trying to solve the pressing question of what is the perfect relationship. Don't miss this film for both boys and girls!

7:30 PM HOOKED

An investigative look at the "online cruising" phenomenon through the stories and reflections of gay men from around the country. The implications of this Huxlian game range from simple, "no-strings", libido-fulfilling sex to deeper, darker issues concerning how we relate to other men, as well as to society in general.

9:00 PM DO I LOVE YOU?

Okay... Louise, a journalist investigating the topic of lesbian love, gets together with Alice, a photographer who is breaking up with her girlfriend Lois, while Susie, Marina's ex, is leaving boring Rachel for exciting young Petra. Dyke drama abounds in this philosophical romantic comedy about breaking up!

9:30 PM 200 AMERICAN

Ian finds more than the same old tricks in New York City when he meets Conrad, a lonely professional who decides to hire him on to work for his advertising agency just so long as Ian provides him with the convenience of superficial romance.

NOV 14 FRIDAY

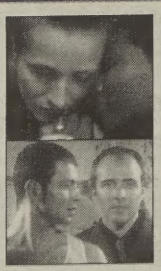
7:00 PM PUT THE CAMERA ON ME

Told through the films made by filmmaker Darren Stein (Sparkler, Jawbreaker) between the ages of 7 and 15, the film offers an intimate peek into the power structure within a group of kids captured on film when the parents are away.

OOF CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION

7:30 PM SUDDENLY (TAN DE REPENTE)

A pair of knowing punkette malcontents kidnap a frumpy lovelorn lingerie salesgirl and strike out on a journey that is poignant, funny and unpredictable from beginning to end.



9:30 PM ROBIN'S HOOD

In this bold re-telling of the Robin Hood myth, a determined African American social worker is suddenly swept up in affair with a white French thief and ultimately joins her in a life of crime to fulfill her selfless goal in bringing hope and a better life to the children of Oakland.

10:00 PM BULGARIAN LOVERS (LOS NOVIOS BULGAROS)

40-year-old Daniel, a regular of Madrid's gay district bars, falls madly in love with Kyril, a hunky 23-year-old Bulgarian. Daniel soon finds himself, however, in a whole lot of trouble as his Bulgarian lover's personal dramas send him into nefarious, potentially life-threatening situations.

NOV 15 SATURDAY

1:00 PM THE EDGE OF EACH OTHER'S BATTLES: THE VISION OF AUDRE LORDE

In this extraordinary documentary, we hear the voice/poetry/love/compassion and yes, rage, of poet and activist Audre Lorde as she speaks out on the importance of empowering Black women in America fighting against racism, sexism and classism.

1:30 PM OF MEN AND GODS (DES HOMMES ET DES DIEUX)

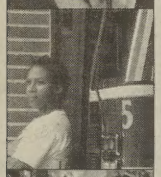
A look at what it means to be openly gay in Haiti and how homosexuality and gay culture are allowed to flourish within the context of Haiti's Vodou religion. As "children of the gods", the men find an explanation for homosexuality as well as divine protection.

3:00 PM INTENTIONS

When Drama Professor Renee Higgins becomes romantically involved with Eve Carsow, a returning graduate student in the Theatre Arts Department, both awaken things in each other that they had been trying to suppress creatively and emotionally.

3:30 PM MEMBERS ONLY! A FUN IN BOYS' SHORTS PROGRAM

An 'exclusive' paring of documentary and narrative shorts about being part of the club. Team up with drag sisters, go doll collecting, dance to disco sounds, make a big splash at the neighborhood pool party and join a collective of superheroes!



5:30 PM SOME REAL HEAT

Explore the small and relatively new world of female firefighters in San Francisco and their upward climb for an access to a male-dominated field as six daring women demonstrate how they single-handedly turn gender roles upside down by putting their lives on the line everyday in one of the riskiest jobs around.

6:00 PM MY LIFE ON ICE (MA VRAIE VIE A ROUEN)

From the makers of The Adventures of Felix comes a story told from the perspective of young Etienne, a cute would-be ice skating champion who starts to film his daily life when he receives a video camera from his grandmother for his sixteenth birthday.

7:00 PM GASOLINE (BENZINA)

At a small, Italian gas station in the Italian countryside, young Lenni finds love with a sexy mechanic – a tough girl named Stella. Unfortunately, when Lenni's super-bourgeois and abusive mother arrives under the auspices of delivering an inheritance, things get rough and Stella tries to intervene...with tragic consequences. Unlikely to disappoint, this volatile roller-coaster ride crosses film genres and styles, delivering an exhilarating and sexy lesbian romance.

8:30 PM AKA

Audaciously split into three simultaneous frames, AKA tells the story of a disaffected youth who escapes a working class suburb to assume the identity of another. Winner of Best Feature at the Montreal, Miami, and Seattle Gay & Lesbian Film Festivals.

9:30 PM RISE ABOVE: THE TRIBE 8 DOCUMENTARY

A documentary featuring the dyke punk rock band, Tribe 8, chronicling hilarious live performances, candid moments of their lives at work and on the road, and the controversy at an all women's music festival that landed them in a quagmire of protest and praise from a fiercely divided crowd. The film concludes that it is the humor and physicality that lies within their controversial performances that give these five individuals the peace to experience the rapture of being alive.

NOV 16 SUNDAY

1:00 PM THE GIFT

A controversial documentary about the growing phenomenon of deliberate HIV infection that takes us beyond bug-chasing to examine the real cultural breakdowns in the prevention effort at work in the larger gay population. Followed by a panel discussion.

1:30 PM BETWEEN TWO WOMEN

A classically performed story of forbidden love, class divisions, social roles and destiny where Housewife and mother, Ellen Hardy, falls for Kathy, her son's art teacher.

3:30 PM TOTALLY SEXY LOSER

Jeremy, having split up with his previous 44 boyfriends, is tired of always being "the bad guy." His emotionally delicate boyfriend, Chip is in love with him, and therefore completely falls apart when Jeremy attempts to end their relationship, rather unsuccessfully.

4:00 PM SIMON AND I

An intimate and inspiring portrait of black South African gay rights activist Simon Nkoli, who died of AIDS in 1998, and his fellow activist and protégé, Bev Ditsie.

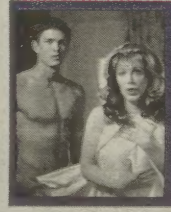
6:00 PM DANGEROUS LIVING: COMING OUT IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

A documentary that sheds light on an emerging global movement striving to end the atrocities against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people outside of the Western world. Narrated by Janeane Garofalo.

6:00 PM FUN IN GIRLS' SHORTS PROGRAM

Featuring live stand up comedy from Georgia Ragsdale in KNOCK EM' DEAD, a look at who women kiss and why in KISS AND TELL, cosmic pairings in STRANGE AND CHARMED and STARCROSSED, and transgender transfer in GIVE OR TAKE AN INCH.

CLOSING PRESENTATION



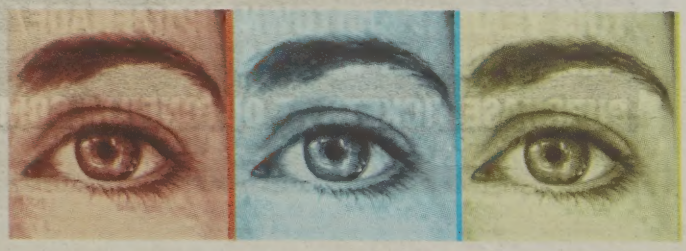
8:30 PM DIE MOMMIE DIE!

In this hilarious comic melodrama, songstress Angela Arden (Tony nominated Charles Busch), appears to have it all. But all is not well in the house of veteran producer Sol P. Sussman, who is determined to hold her prisoner in their loveless marriage. But Angela Arden is not a woman to be held prisoner, even if it means murder.

Presented by: Delta SUBARU DRIVEN BY WHAT'S INSIDE

Produced by: IMAGE FILM & VIDEO CENTER

Sponsored by: ABSOLUT VANILLA, LANDMARK THEATRES, southern voice, ATLANTA Convention & Visitors Bureau, Tiger



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ms. behavior MERYL COHN

One woman discovers she knows both exes from **a bitter breakup**; another looking to clear up pesky herpes issue.

Keep it to yourself?

Dear Ms. Behavior:

I've had four dates with Emily, who's the funniest, most attractive woman I've been with in years. On our third date, while expressing her fears about getting seriously involved, she told me all about her nasty ex, Karen, and their ugly breakup.

I later figured out, through a freaky anatomical detail Emily happened to mention (a third nipple), that Emily's Karen is the same Karen who's in my book group. I really like Karen, and we frequently go out for coffee after book group.

Now I remember Karen crying last year over a breakup with a woman she described as "abusive." I'm sure it was Emily.

I haven't told either of these women that I know their exes. I don't want to stop dating Emily, and I don't want to stop hanging out with Karen, either. Do I have to tell one or both of them about the other? Do I have to stop spending time with one of them?

—Confused

Dear Confused:

Ultimately, you'll probably be forced to choose between Emily and Karen, because you won't be able to pull off being close with both of these women who feel betrayed by one another. It would feel creepy to lie or be secretive.

Tell each woman the truth about your relationship with the other. Since you're excited about your new romantic involvement with Emily, you'll probably choose Emily.

You'll find out soon enough if Emily is actually abusive. If she is, you'll dump her and run back to Karen, with lots of new material to discuss before and after the book group.

But be forewarned that people don't usually change. Emily will probably whisper secrets about your freaky anatomical details to her next girlfriend.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

Am I under any kind of moral obligation to let someone know that they gave me herpes? I know there's no true way of knowing, as herpes simplex virus can lay dormant in the body for a long time, waiting for a truly stressful moment to make itself known. But

Telling someone that they gave you an STD — or that you gave them one — is the polite thing to do.

I'm very certain that Jennifer, a woman I had sex with a long time ago, had a cold sore on her lip before going down on me, and now I have genital herpes.

I was young at the time and didn't know that "cold sores" were really herpes, or that you could get the disease through oral sex. I sometimes run into Jennifer at the gym, and we make small talk.

I'm thinking about it now because of a painful outbreak. I'd feel awkward about mentioning the STD she gave me, but maybe it's the right thing to do.

What do you say?

—Wondering

Dear Wondering:

Telling someone that they gave you an STD — or that you gave them one — is the polite thing to do. People with herpes outbreaks of any kind are frequently prone to recurrences.

If Jennifer hasn't yet learned through a health class, a magazine article, or another irate lover that cold sores are actually herpes, your disclosure to her could save legions of eager women who think they're just getting a little head from suffering a similar painful outbreak.

When you think about how many sexual partners the unwitting Jennifer might have in a lifetime and how many people each of those partners might also have sex with, your disclosure may ultimately save dozens of people from passing on "the gift that keeps on giving."

Jennifer might initially be defensive, but the information will still sink in. And hopefully, opening your mouth will remind Jennifer to keep her lips to herself next time she has an oral outbreak.

Meryl Cohn is the author of 'Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay & Lesbian Etiquette.' She can be reached at msbehavior@aol.com.

dish There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Atlanta **gay institutions celebrate**,
porn stars strut their stuff locally,
pop diva **Janet Jackson** offers big tip.

Partying and porn

ATLANTA'S GAY MAFIA DESCENDED on Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse Nov. 8 for the store's 10th anniversary celebration. With some new bookshelves, fixtures and revamped decor, the venue looked refreshed, and a dapper **PHILIP RAFSHOON** greeted guests and longtime customers.

A packed crowd added to the vibrant atmosphere. Tunes from DJ **RICHARD JONES** and food from nearby Gilbert's Mediterranean Café and Balance, along with drinks by Smirnoff, were also a hit.

Celebrants rubbed shoulders with some of the biggest names in gay Atlanta. On hand were authors like **DANIEL HELMINIAK** and **MICHAEL ALVEAR** as well as gay activists such as **CRAIG WASHINGTON, DUCAN TEAGUE** and **GLEN PAUL FREEDMAN**. Gay business folks were also on hand, including **CINDY ABEL** and **DAVID BOSWELL**.

Politicians — gay ones such as **CATHY WOOLARD, KARLA DRENNER** and **ANNE FAUVER** — and non gays like **PAT GARDNER** were there, and even a national TV personality, gay ABC News correspondent **STEVE OSUNSAMI**, showed up.

The Outwrite bash coincided with a birthday bash at Charis Books & More, the city's 29-year-old lesbian and feminist bookstore.

Outwrite's **Philip Rafshoon** welcomed a packed house of Who's Who in Gay Atlanta — including public relations guru **Cindy Abel** — to the gay bookstore's 10th Anniversary celebration.

GAY MEN ENJOY THEIR "ADULT movies," and local nightlife this month is hosting some of our favorite stars.

It's no secret that Halo is a destination spot for gay men dressed to the nines on Thursdays, and the Nov. 6 crowd swelled to its peak around midnight, as measured by the seemingly insurmountable line for the bathroom.

Then, just as the crowd began to wane, porn royalty **MATTHEW RUSH**, a Falcon Studios lifetime exclusive, stopped by for a quick visit.

Rush currently stars in the play "My Boyfriend the Stripper" at 14th Street Playhouse. The porn star glided with ease into the crowd, much like he does in his flicks. Soon an entourage of drooling boys surrounded the stud, who appeared to be wider than he is tall.

But Rush left as quickly as he came. Soon after, so did everyone else.

Nearby at the Metro, adult video star and director **DOUG JEFFRIES**' Nov. 7-8 visit was heavily promoted, prompting eager fans to pack the Metro as the 11 p.m. show time neared Nov. 8. But by 12:15 a.m., Jeffries still hadn't appeared.

Scuttlebutt among the crowd indicated he would appear for his second scheduled show at 1 a.m. and that club officials were waiting for even more $7 tickets to be sold.

But Dish couldn't wait. We had an engagement the next morning with **JASON & DEMARCO**, the sexy (and gay) Christian duo appearing at First Metropolitan Community Church.

SPEAKING OF CELEBRITY APPEARances, pop queen **JANET JACKSON** and music exec **JERMAINE DUPRI** are back together and showed that they love a good drag show by appearing at Backstreet Oct. 26 to watch drag diva Charlie Brown.

Janet Jackson

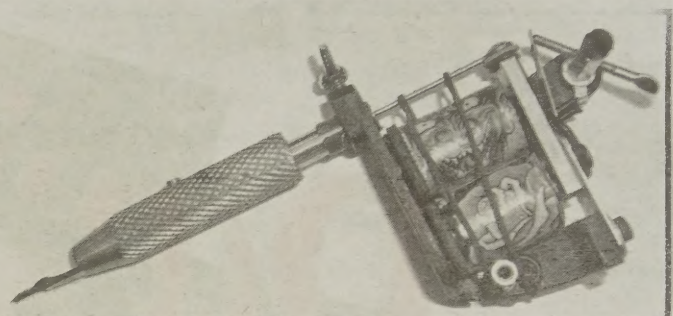
Lena Lust did her infamous **TINA TURNER** tribute, prompting the couple to give her a $50 tip.

ON TUESDAY, **DAN RENZI** OF "REAL World Miami" was spotted at Swinging Richard's, a popular spot with the younger set on Tuesdays.

Fans didn't take well to Renzi's attitude during the run of the MTV show, but the model and HIV prevention worker has turned to acting of late. He appears with Rush in "My Boyfriend the Stripper."

Apparently on Tuesday, Renzi was researching his part in the play with his face mere inches away from a dancer's butt at the strip joint. His hands, according to our spies, were on the move, much to the displeasure of the dancer.

@ Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.



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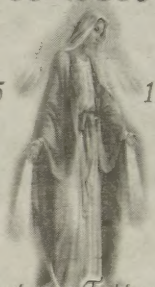

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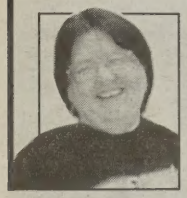

City's oldest lesbian bar keeps up with the times by constantly changing entertainers, activity schedule, services.

There's no place like home

OPENED IN 1956 AND STANDING AS Atlanta's oldest lesbian bar, the Tower II has seen a lot of changes over the years.

"We're undergoing a lot of promotional changes right now," says Angie B., one of the bar's three co-owners.

Nestled at the corner of Ralph McGill Boulevard and Easley Street, next door to Mae's Kitchen and across from Hall's Wholesale Florist, Tower II's formidable clapboard structure harbors a safe haven for women who love women. The small deck and surrounding wooden fencing gives the place a "homey" feel.

Upon entering the Tower II, the front room is open and spacious with cushy seating arrangements, lending itself very well to conversation or dancing. A small bar at the entrance is open on Saturday nights, the venue's busiest night of the week.

Between the open area and the stage is a larger bar, and off to the right of the stage is a poolroom with two pool tables. In front of the stage area, tables and chairs are arranged on nights there is a show.

On a black painted wall in front of the bar are colorfully painted caricatures of women in various poses with its own label: Spirit, Healing, Nature, Sun, Harmony and Life.

Not as dark as some places, the lighting in Tower II is bright enough to see each other, but subtle enough to enhance the overall atmosphere of intimacy.

VISITORS TEND TO GROW FOND OF the place very quickly.

"I've been going to that bar since way before I moved down here, some 13 or 14 years now," says Karen G., one of the organizers of Cliterati, a lesbian poetry group. "The only thing that hasn't changed has been the bar situated where it is. I have such a soft spot for the place. I like the oldness of it."

The Tower II does not serve food, but both bars are very well stocked. The beer selection is fairly standard, and wines include Merlot, Chardonnay and Arbor Mist in several flavors.

The bartenders are as talented as the bar's regular list of performers. They're able to mix up any type of drink including "Sex on the Beach" and Martinis in raspberry, watermelon, blueberry and tropical flavors.

And the beauty of bartender Ursula is definitely worth the drive on a Friday or Saturday night.

HOME TO CLITERATI THE SECOND and fourth Thursday of every month for three years now, The Tower II has other programs and a variety of shows to entertain.

Friday nights heat up with 'Women Who Love to Dance,' Tower II's latest event that welcomes the weekend by keeping the ladies dancing like this rowdy group from an Atlanta Pride party. (Photo by Sher Pruitt)

Every other Tuesday night, Tower II plays host to "The Black Chair," an open-discussion forum. Set up like a diversified talk show, topics cover a great range of interests from politics to health issues and beyond.

Saturday nights is the Tower II Exclusive Showcase featuring lip sync artists booked from local talent. The show often books from the same entertainment "family" — the Santiago family, Capone family and Walker Enterprises, just to name a few.

There is a $6 cover charge on Saturday nights after 10 p.m. Sunday is a day for "The Lion's Den," a show for black gay men. Plans are also in the works for Tower II to book DJs for Friday nights as well as Thursday nights that Cliterati isn't on the stage.

DJ Kim began Nov. 7 to spin Friday night tunes for "Women Who Love to Dance." For that show, the bar charges $5 cover before midnight and a $6 cover charge after that.

In addition to these changes, a Web site for Tower II is currently in the works.

The parking lot is very small, but patrons usually don't hesitate to park along Ralph McGill Boulevard or Easley Street.

MORE INFO

Tower II
753 Ralph McGill Blvd.
404-523-1535
Tuesday - Sunday, 7 p.m.
Closed Mondays

nightlife calendar

FRIDAY NOV. 14

Armory. 404-881-9280.

Backstreet. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret Show, 11 p.m. 404-873-1986.

Blake's on the Park. Bingo with Bubba D. Licious, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. 404-892-5786.

Blu. 404-877-1221.

The Breaking Point. Friday Night Follies with Eartha Quake & Victoria Diamond. 770-426-4199.

Bulldogs. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop. 404-872-3025.

Burkhart's. Dinner menu 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. 404-872-4403.

Chaparral. Gay Latin night. 2715 Buford Highway. 404-634-3737.

Club Kink. Pansexual Night Out, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. BYOB. 404-505-8848.

Colours. Hip Hop and house night. 678-702-0872.

Eagle. Halloween costume contest with cash prizes, judging starts 1 a.m. 404-873-2453.

Heretic. Sweat, 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. 404-325-3061.

Le Buzz. TGIF celebration. 770-424-1337.

Mary's. "Danceteria," 9 p.m. 404-624-4411.

Metro. Men of Metro dancers, 10 p.m. 404-874-9869.

Model T. Le Box All Male Revue, 10 p.m. 404-872-2209.

My Sisters' Room. 404-370-1990.

Oscar's. 404-874-7748.

Red Chair. 404-870-0532.

Rico's View on Ponce. Karaoke with Patrick. 404-873-3220.

Woofs. Atlanta's gay sports bar. 404-869-9422.

SATURDAY NOV. 15

Armory. Le Femme Royale with Sophia McIntosh, Paula Sinclair and Tina Devore, 11 p.m.

Backstreet. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret Show, 11 p.m. upstairs.

Blake's on the Park. Super Saturdays Talent Show.

Blu. Special guest DJ Alyson Calagna.

Bulldogs. Old school, hip hop, and urban dance music.

Burkhart's. Dinner menu 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Club Kink. Serious BDSM Play Night, 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. BYOB.

Colours. Male review party with men from original Jaguar, midnight.

Le Buzz. Dixie Encore with Tequila Mockingbird, 10:30 p.m.

Metro. "Day of the Dead Giant Scary Show," 12:30 a.m. Latin music, 10 p.m.

Model T. Drag show featuring the Model Teez Girlz. 11 p.m.

My Sisters' Room. Dance party.

SUNDAY NOV. 16

Armory. Spiritual Vibe Dance Party, 6 p.m.

Backstreet. "Sunday Church," 2 a.m.

Blake's on the Park. Big Time Drag Review, 9:30 p.m.

Buddies on Cheshire Bridge. Morticia DeVille and the Atlanta Gospel Hour, 8:30 p.m. 404-634-5895.

Burkhart's. Dinner menu 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Gospel Jubilee, 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Chaparral. Hip-Hop Night, doors open 10 p.m.

Eagle. Now open 6 p.m.-midnight.

Heretic. Now open 12:30 p.m. to midnight, dance floor 6 p.m. to midnight.

Red Chair. All you can eat brunch buffet, 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Red Chair Revue starring Bubba D. Licious, Deva Station and Fajita Marinara, 9 p.m.

Rico's View on Ponce. Karaoke with Patrick, 9 p.m.

Tripps. Sunday Starters with Tami. 404-724-0067.

MONDAY NOV. 17

Armory. "Mouth of the South" Live with Peg and Monica Van Pelt. 9:30 p.m.

The Breaking Point. Free pool.

Buddies on Cheshire Bridge. Free pool until 8 p.m.

Bulldogs. Feel good house night.

Burkhart's. Free pool, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, 11:30 p.m.

Eagle. Free pool and favorite rock music.

Joe's on Juniper. Music Trivia, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 404-875-6634.

Le Buzz. Girls night out.

Metro. "Trash" '80s music, 10 p.m.

Nickiemoto's. Dragamaki with Bubba D. Licious, Martina Diamante and weekly guests. 9 p.m. 404-253-2010.

Oscar's. Service industry night, 9 p.m.

Red Chair. Dinner & a movie, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY NOV. 18

Armory. "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," 9 p.m.

Backstreet. Deep, down and dirty, 10 p.m.

The Breaking Point. Drink specials all night, karaoke with Bruce Meadows.

Bulldogs. Solution dance ritual.

Burkhart's. Free pool, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, 11:30 p.m.

Dragonfly. Only 18-and-up club night in town for gays. 21 to drink. 404-875-7473.

Eagle. Free pool and favorite rock music.

Hoedowns. Beginning two-step free dance lessons, 8 p.m.

Joe's on Juniper. Trivia Challenge, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Le Buzz. Truth or Dare Trivia & Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Mary's. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.

Metro. "Latin House," 10 p.m.

Red Chair. Ladies Night. Drag Kings at 10 p.m., 10:30 p.m., & 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 19

Armory. New Death Disco, 9:30 p.m

Backstreet. Spotlight, 1 a.m.

Blake's on the Park. Blake's Boys, 10:30 p.m.

The Breaking Point. "Beauty and the Bitch" talent show with Charlie Brown & Heather Daniels.

Bulldogs. Hip Hop, Urban Beats.

Burkhart's. Free pool 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Chaparral. Flamin' Hot Wednesdays.

Club Kink. Da' Boy's Night Out – jock straps & lights out party, 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. BYOB.

Colours. Go-go dancers with men of the original Jaguar, 11:30 p.m.

Eagle. Retro dance music.

Haze. Gay night. 404-249-8900.

Heretic. Dress code party, 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Hoedown's. Intermediate two-step free dance lessons.

Joe's on Juniper. Live music by Alice Muson and Friends on 100-seat patio, weather permitting.

Le Buzz. Dance Out Loud, Rump Night,10 p.m.

Metro. "Urban Spin" with Maxine Blue, 10 p.m. Show, 11:30 p.m.

My Sisters' Room. Karaoke Night, 9 p.m.

Oscar's. Comedy Night, 9p.m.

Red Chair. Lust & Bust Show starring Lena Lust, Shawnna Brooks, Martina Diamante and Ashley Kruiz, 10 p.m.

Rico's View on Ponce. Leather, Levi fetish night, 9 p.m.

Swinging Richards. No cover with bar-employee ID. 404-352-0532.

Tripps. Karaoke with Patrick, 11 p.m.

Whiskeypeach. Gay night. 404-745-9551.

THURSDAY NOV. 20

Armory. Big Thursdays with Monica Layne and Alexandra Martin, 11 p.m.

Backstreet. Charlie Brown's X-rated Cabaret, 11 p.m.

The Breaking Point. Wet undies contest, cash & prizes.

Bulldogs. Trash disco, soulful house and hip-hop.

Burkhart's. Free pool, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Meow Mix with Kitty LeClaw, 11:30 p.m.

Chaparral. Asian Night, 9 p.m.

Club Kink. Chicks But No Sticks Party, 8 pm. to 3 a.m. BYOB.

Colours. Latin Night. Drag show with Cliques Buenestro, midnight.

Eagle. Underwear party with clothes check.

Felix on the Square. Karaoke with Patrick.

Heretic. Rapture Party, 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Hoedowns. Line waltz free dance lessons, 8 p.m.

Joe's on Juniper. 80s retro trivia.

Le Buzz. Karaoke, 10 p.m.

Mary's. Beat Surrender, 9:30 p.m.

Metro. "Newcomer of the Year Pageant 2003" with Monica Layne, Raquel Richards and Jade Daniels, 11 p.m.

Model T. Talent search with Jewell Holiday, 10 p.m.

Oscar's. Pure energy, pure video, 9 p.m.

Rico's View on Ponce. S.H.E. meeting, 7 p.m.

@ Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Friday to be included in the following week's issue. Fax calendar schedule to Nightlife Calendar, 404-876-2709, or e-mail calendar@sovo.com or call 404-876-1819, ext. 32. The first listing in the week for each bar includes a phone number for further information. Call for drink specials and scheduled DJs.

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SUNDAY NOV. 16

Gay singer **Richard Bicknell** and his band, the Shameless Lovers, bring their alt-country sounds, including music from their latest CD 'Baby Lightning,' to an 8 p.m. show at Smith's Olde Bar, 1578 Piedmont Ave. 404-875-1522, www.smithsoldebar.com, www.richardbicknell.com

TUESDAY NOV. 18

The **Atlanta Chamber Players** perform a classical French-meets-Celtic concert, 'Berets & Brogues,' welcoming non-perishable food donations for charity, at 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. 770-242-2227, www.atlantachamberplayers.com

WEDNESDAY NOV. 19

Multi award-winning photographer **Parish Kohanim** opens a fine art gallery in his Midtown studio, with a 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. reception at 1130 West Peachtree St. 404-892-0099, www.parishkohanim.com

SATURDAY NOV. 22

Boogie blues and rollicking swamp rock collide when lesbian singer and pianist **Marcia Ball** performs at 8:30 p.m. at Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. 404-524-7354, www.variety-playhouse.com

The all-gay camp rock band **Pansy Division** headlines a show in conjunction with its latest CD 'Total Entertainment!' at 9 p.m. at Echo Lounge, 551 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-681-3600, www.echostatic.com/echolounge, www.pansydivision.com

To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

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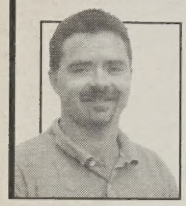


Classic musical 'West Side Story' opens as **dynamic shows** wrap successful runs during stage season offering wide variety.

Local theater heats up

WHEN ATLANTA LYRIC THEATRE Artistic Director J. Lynn Thompson decided to stage "West Side Story," he knew that he wanted to take a different approach to the oft-performed musical. His solution was to change the dynamics of the show via collaboration with the Atlanta Ballet to give the show a dance element as well.

Thus, six times during this version of the Leonard Bernstein/Stephen Sondheim classic, members of the ballet move center stage to perform. Behind them, a full orchestra belts out numbers, and the actors playing the Jets and the Sharks do their thing.

"West Side Story" is staged by Kate Warner, the gay associate artistic director at Theatrical Outfit, as well as a frequent collaborator with Dad's Garage.

"This is a show where you will actually hear the story," Warner says. "It's a very exciting approach to a beautiful and timeless love story."

Thompson leads the orchestra, and Joe Roesner conducts the ballet.

ONE OF THE BEST SHOWS OF THE season is Synchronicity Performance Group's "References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot," by playwright Jose Rivera.

"References" is a lyrical and surreal piece that concerns the return home of a soldier who was at war. Waiting at home for her man, Gabriela (Denise Arribas) is bored and restless. In her imagination, the man in the moon climbs down to talk to her, and her cat mates with a coyote.

When husband Benito (James Martinez) staggers home one day, Gabriela realizes she has outgrown him. He wants sex, and she wants everything but that.

Arribas can be a little stiff in her performance. But "References" is still well directed and performed — especially by talented newcomer Martinez.

It's also a very sexy show, including the carnal gropings of the cat and coyote (Bobbi Lynne Scott and Jeff Feldman) and the physical attraction between Gabriela and Benito.

But the real star of this piece is Rivera and his magical words. He perfectly captures the relationship of the central characters as they chart their stagnant relationship, with Benito almost pleading for Gabriela to honor their bond.

SEVERAL OTHER ATLANTA SHOWS are nearing the end of their runs. The Alliance Theatre's "Crowns" closes this weekend after an extension. The show, dealing with the love African-American women have for hats, is more attitude — make that "hattitude" — than anything else.

The women onstage are a talented lot, but the show itself is rather pointless and repetitive, despite some big numbers.

This is the last week to catch 'Crowns,' a popular show based on the book about black ladies' love of hats, at the Alliance Theatre.

Jewish Theatre of the South's "Funny Girl" has moments of pure exhilaration. But overall, the show is a mixed bag.

Wendy Melkonian lends her charm and vocal gifts to the role of Fanny Brice, and for a while, the show coasts by on her talents. Her rendition of "Don't Rain on My Parade" — especially the finale — is powerful. But her warbling of "People" is rather ordinary.

Gay director Jeff McKerley has some ringers in his ensemble, but the cast is tiny, and it hurts. At times, performers double up, sometimes confusingly.

Overall, "Funny Girl" is painless but not the grandiose production it might have been.

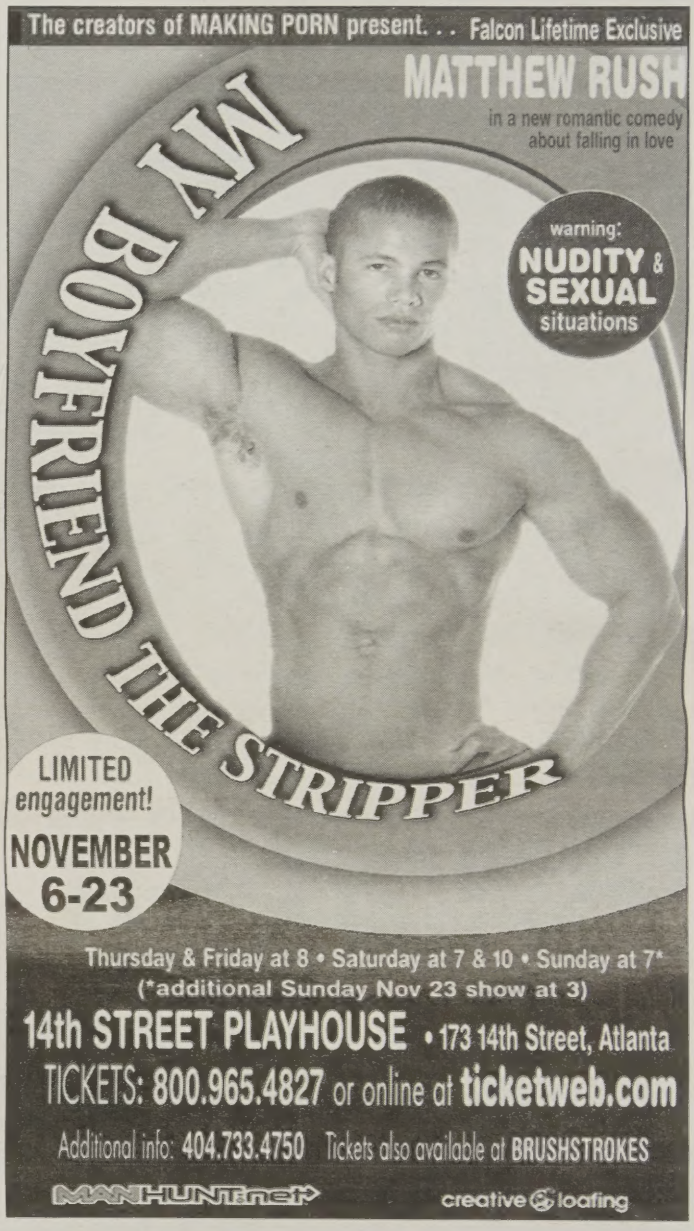
MORE INFO

'West Side Story'
Nov. 14-16
Ferst Center for the Arts
349 Ferst Drive, NW
Georgia Tech campus
404-894-9600

'References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot'
Through Nov. 23
7 Stages Backstage
1105 Euclid Ave.
404-325-5168

'Crowns'
Through Nov. 16
Alliance Theatre
1280 Peachtree St., NE
404-733-5000

'Funny Girl'
Through Nov. 16
Morris & Rae Frank Theatre
5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody
770-395-2654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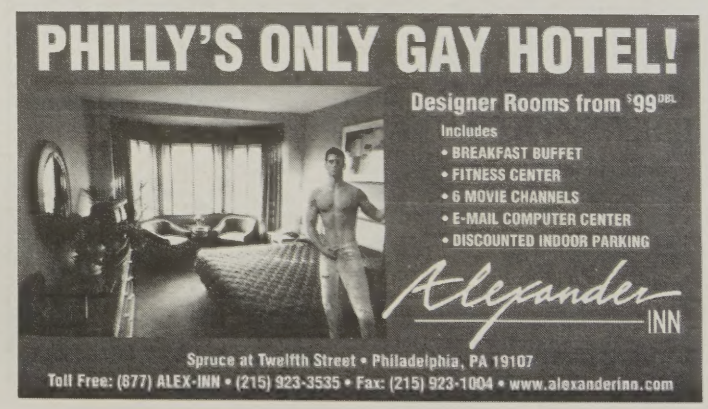
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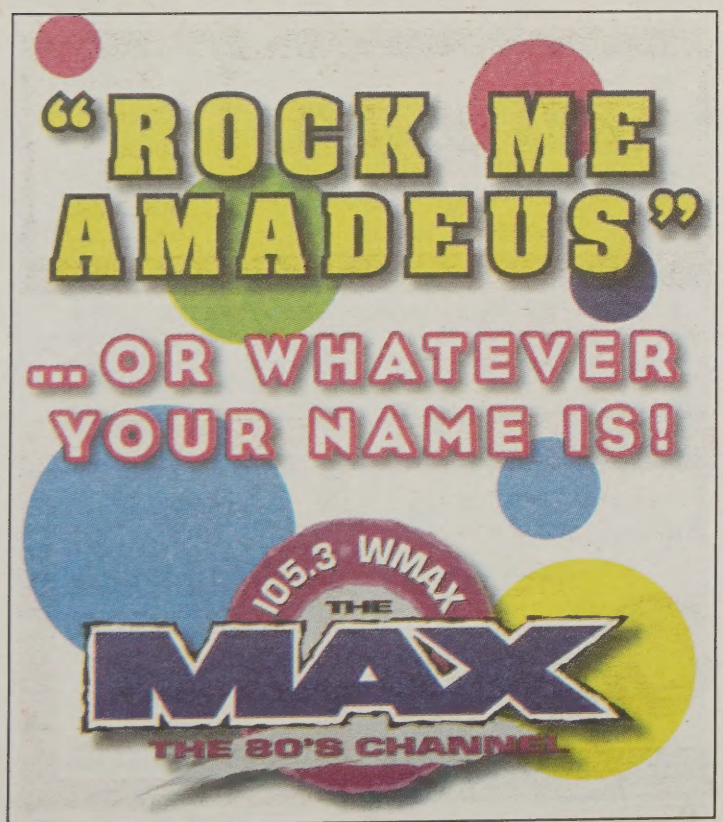

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Owners reinvent former Indigo, New Indigo space with sophisticated décor changes, delicious menu items **sure to please.**

Identity crisis resolved

PREPARE FOR A RESTO-SAGA. FIRST there was Indigo Coastal Grill. About 15 years ago, this casual-as-Jimmy-Buffet-in-flip-flops Morningside eatery helped pioneer the city's endlessly curling wave of good and better restaurants.

A lot of smart people worked and trained at Indigo and went on to newer places. And a lot of hungry people got an education there in fresh, lively, no-nonsense dining out.

But some dark force would not leave a good thing alone. Indigo was bought out and run into the ground.

Then the new owner reopened the space as a glitzy Texas-style barbecue joint. This succeeded about as well as the former Texas governor's current war.

Next, another group of owners toned down the rodeo look, renamed it New Indigo, and tried to force a merger between their French culinary sensibilities and the Key West lilt of the original.

Now coming to terms with who they are and what they want to accomplish, the same management reinvented the place again.

The look is modulated a bit further. The name is Horizon. The food is dominantly Mediterranean — and mighty good.

HORIZON IS A BIG, LOW SPACE WITH a long bar and a lounge area. The feel is serene and sophisticated in hues of midnight blue and raw salmon. Outside, there's an ample covered terrace well away from traffic.

On two visits, the unobtrusive music was consistently that of the boomer generation — Van Morrison, Marvin Gaye, Simon & Garfunkel and the Supremes. There are plenty of former Sixties Persons in that neighborhood, so this makes marketing sense. Call it a subliminal loyalty program.

Besides soups, salads and entrees, the menu lists both tapas and appetizers. As far as I can tell, the main difference between those last two categories is price, with the tapas ringing in at $4.50 to $5.50 each, with the appetizers at $6.50 to $12.50.

From the former list, an order of three little dumplings stuffed with ground pork and manchego cheese is described as braised. They do arrive in a bath of liquid, but they are also lightly crisped, so go figure.

The textural blend of doughy, crusty, meaty and cheesy is just fine. So are the two broth-like accompanying sauces, a very peppery soy-citrus, and a sweet miso.

From the appetizers, lamb carpaccio is a welcome variation on the usual beef version. A plate is paved with thinly sliced raw meat that has a melting texture and the distinctly barnyardy pleasant aroma of good lamb. An accompanying arugula salad makes for snappy contrast. This dish is easily big enough to share.

Tuna tartar is prettily wrapped and held in a circle by transparently thin slices of cucumber. The fish is deep red and top quality. A dollop of salty black olive tapenade and dribbles of fiery red pepper coulis add zing to this satisfying starter.

The Caesar salad is an inventive update on the classic. Cut to fork size, the lettuce is properly bathed in a tangy, creamy dressing and topped with plenty of shaved aged parmesan. The "croutons" are actually little anchovy-filled pastry rolls.

THE CRAB CAKES ENTRÉE ($19.50) makes a splendid meal. The cakes themselves are tall cylinders, top and bottom sporting a golden crust and flecked with red pepper and green parsley. They surround a whirled mound of wilted spinach, and under all of that is a wonderful corn chowder.

The creamy chowder has a rich, smoky, porky scent and plenty of diced potato and celery, as well as corn kernels. This is the most expensive item on the menu, but it repays a splurge.

The entrée list includes several other seafood and meat plates like roast duck with braised red cabbage in an apple brandy sauce, and pork tenderloin with mushroom-potato ragu and a port reduction — two appealing cool season ideas.

Try Horizon for a holiday season evening out.

HORIZON

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Service: 🍽🍽🍽
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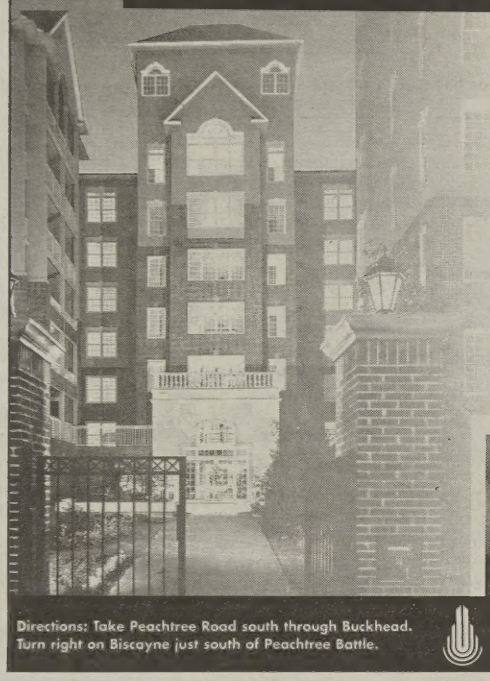

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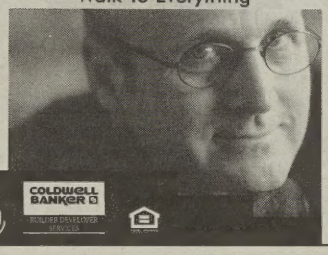

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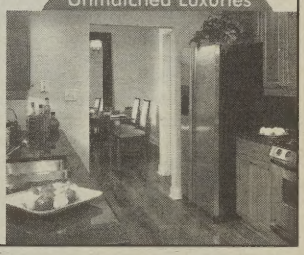

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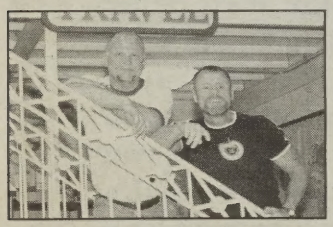
Gay travel agents warn against Internet-only trip planning

GAY TRAVEL, continued from Page 37

The proliferation of gay travel sites and microsites are "a godsend to my business, because more than anything else, they confuse the gay traveler, and I get to step in and help," says Aldrich/Thorpe, the travel agent in Virginia.

"A guesthouse marketed to gay people may look great online, but can become a very bad experience in reality," he says. "Travelers should check with agents who specialize in the community and have been to these places themselves. We do this everyday and can steer you in the right direction."

Phil Zachary, partner in the 10-year-old gay-owned travel agency All Points Travel in Atlanta, agrees.



Phil Zachary (left) and **John Crawfis** are 10-year business partners in All Points Travel, a business that increasingly plans gay-specific vacations. (Photo courtesy All Points Travel)

"The Internet can definitely be a good thing, but some people get into things that aren't exactly what they planned," Zachary says. "Tons of little companies that do gay groups, cruises or tours don't tell you that you'll be in the minority, and you may not be totally comfortable.

"The answer is to get with a gay-friendly travel agency that knows what we're doing," he says. "If you're looking to do an all-gay cruise like RSVP, Atlantis or Olivia, it's the same price to book through us, and since we book hundreds of trips per year, we have more clout with them to make sure your experience is perfect."

Travel agents know some of the pitfalls that inexperienced vacationers might not expect, Zachary says.

"Some people think they can choose a destination and find something gay there, and that's just not the case," he says. "If you're not talking about a trip to Provincetown, South Beach, New Orleans or another big gay city, you can be sorely disappointed. Other than San Juan, for example, it's hard to find a good gay experience in the Caribbean, and people just aren't aware of that."

And IGLTA's Wilson and gay travel agents agree that travelers should educate themselves and qualify their agents, even going as far as getting to know them personally and asking questions that personalize trips to the smallest detail.

Looking for an IGLTA affiliation and for testimonials from past customers rank among questions that should be asked at the onset to make sure travelers are getting the service they deserve.

"A good agent will investigate what the client wants and not just book a ticket and move on," Aldrich/Thorpe says.

Once that dream gay vacation is booked, Wilson has one more piece of sage advice.

"Take a credit card, and don't pack too much," he jokes.

MORE INFO

International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association
4331 N. Federal Highway, Suite 304
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308
954-776-2626
www.iglta.org

International Gay Travel Association
www.rainbow-mall.com/igta

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America Online
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www.bluway.com

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Gayjet
www.gayjet.com

Just-Travel-Links
www.just-travel-lins.com/gay_travel_guide

Orbitz
www.orbitz.com/gaytravel

Q-Net (Ferrari Travel Guides microsite)
www.q-net.com

SisterTrip
www.sistertrip.com

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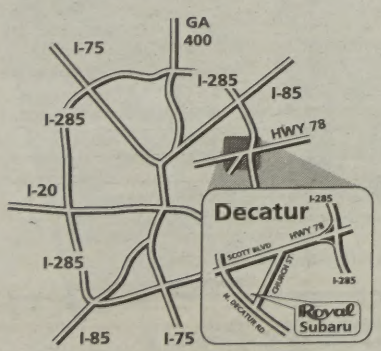

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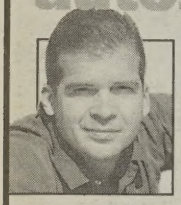

Some luxury vehicles are a downer, as others are on upswing: a look at the market's **most expensive cars**.

If money were no object

Lamborghini Murcielago

GAY CAR BUYERS KNOW ALL ABOUT outrageous. So do today's automakers. More of them than ever are rolling out extreme exotics, with prices up to (gulp) $1 million.

Often supercars are made in quantities of a few hundred apiece. Exclusivity breeds drama — in a good way. And this luxo "mojo" can draw buyers to dealer showrooms and more affordable fare.

All the "Joe Millionaire" dream machines below are the epitome of power, panache and pampering, often including 500-plus horsepower. Many have Matrix-like styling (Keanu not included — though at these prices, he should be).

And most seats are as form-fitting as ice-skater Rudy Galindo's tights.

Alas, maintenance costs are just as extreme. Gas mileage averages a measly 12 to 14 miles per gallon. And replacing an Aston Martin's cracked headlight is $1,500.

Outrageous? You bet. But hey, it's only money.

Aston Martin V12 Vanquish

ASTON MARTIN V12 VANQUISH
Top price: $250,000
Top speed: 190 mph (0-60 in 4.7 seconds)

Bottom line: James Bond usually drives Astons (now owned by Ford, which also has Jaguar, Volvo and Land Rover). The Vanquish's Jag-like exterior is understated, the 12-cylinder engine sophisticated and the interior oh-so plush. Options include fire extinguisher, personalized door sill plaques and heated windshield.

Bentley Continental GT

BENTLEY CONTINENTAL GT
Top price: $149,900
Top speed: 198 mph (0-60 mph in 4.7 seconds)

Bottom line: Considered the latchkey sister to stuffy Rolls Royce, Bentleys have been around since 1919.

Today, Bentley is part of VW (BMW owns Rolls), and both have morphed into hip exotics. Like Queen Latifah, the Continental GT (at 552 horsepower) is fast and nimble for its 5,250-lb. weight, with a sensual shape both feline and muscular.

BUGATTI VEYRON
Top price: $1,100,000
Top speed: 250 mph (0-60 mph in 3 seconds)

Bottom line: Built in France, this 1,000-horsepower rocket-car has a 7-speed manual transmission and W-16 engine (two V-8s set at 90 degrees).

Only 50 will be made a year, with optional large diamond mounted in the speedometer. Bugatti's two previous revivals since the 1930s didn't work. But owner VW hopes the third time is a charm.

FERRARI ENZO
Top price: $652,000
Top speed: 218 mph (0-60 mph in 3.7 seconds)

Bottom line: Ferrari only produced 349 Enzos (named after Ferrari's famed founder). Despite roominess and 16-way power seats, it's an extreme — not luxury — sports car.

Full of Formula 1 technology, Enzo has 660 horsepower, racing-style carbon-fiber seats, adjustable pedals and scissor doors that open skyward.

Can't get one? Ferrari makes seven other beauties — at about a third the price.

LAMBORGHINI MURCIÉLAGO
Top price: $295,000
Top speed: 205 mph (0-60 mph in 3.8 seconds)

Bottom line: Irked about his own Ferrari 40 years ago, tractor maker Ferruccio Lamborghini built a sportster. Today, Lamborghinis are air-freighted from Italy in sealed containers.

The screaming, 580-horsepowered Murciélago is a brawny two-year-old,

Please see LUXURY CARS on Page 61

REAL ESTATE DIRECTORY, **Page 62** CLASSIFIEDS, **Page 64**

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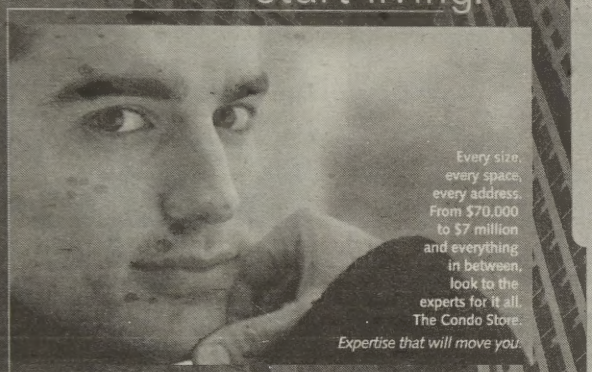

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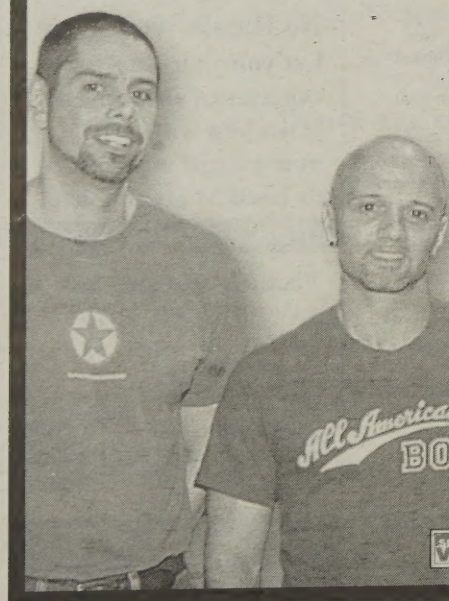

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Sky's the limit on luxury car options

LUXURY CARS continued from Page 59

also with scissor doors. Sexy black interior has yellow-stitched seats and bulbous metal shift knob.

A new $165,000 sibling — the Gallardo — arrives soon, with regular doors, 90 fewer horses and 800 fewer pounds.

MERCEDES-BENZ SLR MCLAREN
Top price: $400,000 (estimate)
Top speed: 200 mph (0-60 mph in 3.8 seconds)

Bottom line: Mercedes may offer sumptuous $300,000-plus Maybach sedans, but the buzz now is about the 580-horsepower, swoop-shaped SLR McLaren coupe (with 6-pack-ab body panels).

The rear wing acts as an air brake.

MOSLER MT900
Top price: $214,000
Top speed: 200 mph (0-60 in 3.5 seconds)

Bottom line: Moslers are perhaps the lightest exotics around (the $159,000 S model is 2,330 lb., almost half the Lamborghini). The Photon model is 220 lb. lighter but $55,000 more.

Both offer scissor doors, razor-sharp response and storage space for four Hugo Boss shopping bags.

PORSCHE CARRERA GT
Top price: $440,000
Top speed: 205 mph (0-60 mph in 3.9 seconds)

Bottom line: Built like a Le Mans racer, the 604-horsepower V-10 Carrera GT two-seater is smoother than most super coupes.

Batmobile styling includes pod-like projections from the headrests to the rear end. Two removable roof panels allow open-air fun.

ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM
Top price: $332,300
Top speed: 150 mph (0-60 mph in 6 seconds)

Bottom line: The only sedan here, with blunt-nosed yet retro-styling, trendy suicide doors, an electrically retractable hood ornament and "RR" logos in the wheel centers that always remain upright.

Despite its 19-foot-long frame, handling is smooth, not boat-like (with help from 31-inch Michelins, the biggest passenger-car tires around).

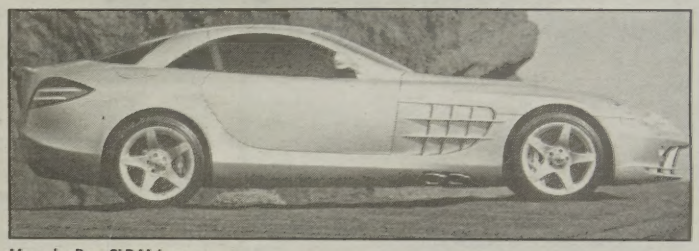
SALEEN S7
Top price: $400,000
Top speed: 200 mph (0-60 mph in 3.3 seconds)

Bottom line: That's Saleen, not Celine — though both can belt out a tune. The Saleen's exhaust notes are powered by an overachieving 550-horsepower V-8.

A sharklike exterior has 64 air vents and gills. Along with a rear-facing video camera, the leather-wrapped cockpit has dashboard gauges inspired by a Breitling wristwatch.

Price includes three-piece set of custom-fitted luggage, two first-class tickets to the California plant and two days at a nearby Ritz.

Rolls-Royce Phantom



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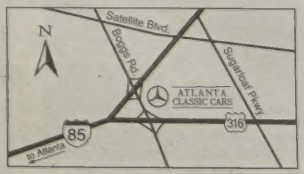

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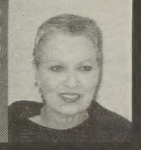

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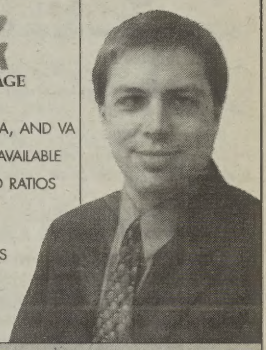

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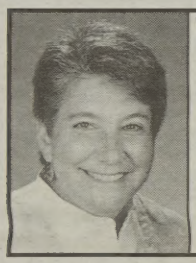

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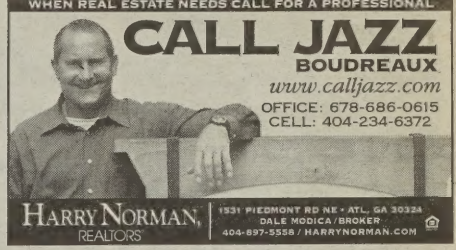

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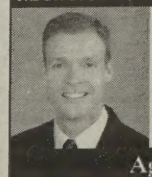

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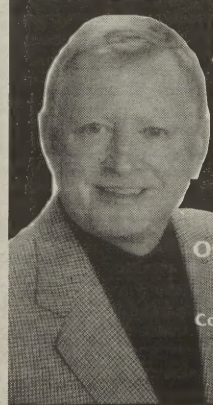

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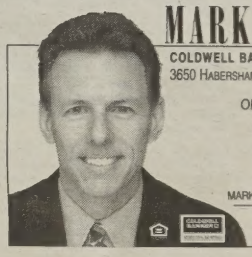

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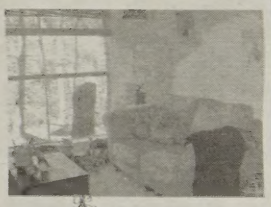

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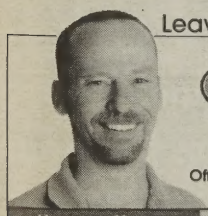

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INTOWN $619,000 SOPHISTICATED & style describe this home! 3 BR, 2 BA w/stunning Master Suite & Roman Shower overlooking private backyard w/state of the art pool. Gourmet eat in kit w/high end appliances opens to courtyard & deck. Garage, den and fin bsmt. A definite must see! Call Donna at (678) 644-8380 or Viviann at (404) 202-2258 HARRY NORMAN, REALTORS.

INTOWN RESTORATION Lrg 4 BR, 2 BA + bonus. Everything new, stained glass, 9ft ceils, hdwd flrs, huge gourmet kit & DR. Open floor plan, lrg private yard w/24 by 16 deck & bar. Great neighborhood. Prelist $229,000. Owner, Mike (404-784-4359.

MIDTOWN / MCGILL PLACE 1 BR, 1 BA, top floor unit, fpl, walk-in closet. $120,000. For sale by owner until 12/1. (404) 873-4033. http://home.bellsouth.net/p/PWP-McGillPlace.

NORTHLAKE Affordable upscale chic in convenient area. 3 BR, 2 BA, totally updated, sparkly clean brick ranch in vibrant, wooded S&T 'hood. Newly painted w/designer colors. Hdwd flrs, white kitchen. Huge deck & lrg terrace. $219,400. (678) 578-3225. www.colleenfong.com.

PINELAKE / DEKALB (478 Pine Dr) Renov 3 BR, 1 BA brick ranch & 2 BR, 1 BA suite in daylight bsmt w/full amens. Fenced yard & outside entrance to bsmt. Lakeside community mins from downtown Atlanta. Great investment. $189,000. (770) 339-5476 or (770) 634-5462.

ROSWELL (905 Windsor Trail) Private Botanical Gardens surround updated 3 plus BR, 3 BA home. Stainless appliances, fpl in banquet DR, separate cottage in back w/HVAC, phone & water. $299,500. COLDWELL BANKER, Steve Caster (770) 594-2074. steve.caster@coldwellbankeratlanta.com.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS (584 Highland Ave) Open Sun 2pm-5pm. Renovated. Gorgeous 3 BR, 2 BA, hdwd flrs throughout, 12' ceilings, 4 fpls & new siding. Close to downtown & Va Highlands. $319,900. Call (770) 633-4543 James Belisha BOB WOOD REALTY.

SALE / COMMERCIAL

MIDTOWN Tanning Salon. Customer base of 7 yrs. $80,000/ OBO. (404) 451-6592 or (770) 220-0880.

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No FEE service. (404) 352-5570 / (800) 597-7356. www.PrideRealty.rentals.com.

RENT / ATLANTA

6 FLAGS AREA 10 mins from Midtown / downtown. Responsible M or F for 900 sq ft 2 BR, 1 BA house on 5 quiet acres. New paint & carpet, 2 screened porches, fpl. $500/mo + utils. (404) 808-3521.

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BUCKHEAD / COLLIER Spacious 2 BR, 1 BA Condo for rent. Includes water, cable, heat, WD, storage, indoor park. $1,100/ mo. (404) 607-9419.

BUCKHEAD 2 BR, 1 BA condo for rent. Incl utils, prkg, storage, gym, library, grill area w/pool, new BA & kit, crwn molding, lrg screened porch, secure bldg. The Habersham Estate. $1000/mo. Negotiable. The
Habersham Estate. www.habershamestate.org. (404) 605-0795. jengoodson@hotmail.com.

BUCKHEAD 2 BR, 1 BA condo. Renovated in 2002. New kit appls, WD incl. Near Roswell & Piedmont Rds. $1,000/ mo. (404) 486-9221.

BUCKHEAD CONDO FOR RENT/SALE
1 BR, 1, BA condo w/fabulous pool, hw & downtown skyline views. Rent includes all utilities. $900/mo. $110,000 sale price. Call (404) 229-5641.

BUCKHEAD GEM! 2 BR, 2 BA; great location. WD; large roommate layout, lots of storage space, most utilities incld. $1,000/mo! Call John (770) 335-4215.

COLLEGE PARK CHARMER
3 BR, 1.5 BA, completely renovated rancher in Historic District. Stainless steel kit & private English Garden. Mins from downtown. $1,200/mo. Call Ron (404) 441-5223.

COLLEGE PARK Historic district. Elegant 2 BR, 2 BA apt. In majestic victorian. MARTA, WD, DW, OSP. NS only. All appls, gas, cable incl. Avail furn or unfurn. $950/mo + $500/dep. (404) 377-8668.

DECATUR: Walk or bike 1.5 mile to Emory or Decatur Sq. 2 BR 1 Ba condo. Carpet, patio, WD. Pet OK. $750/mo. (404) 377-4389 or (770) 413-7255.

EAST ATLANTA (1147 Knott St) Completely renovated 3 BRs, 2 BAs, huge eat-in-kit, walk-in closets, jacuzzi in master, laundry rm, all appls, hdwd flrs, tile sunroom, deck overlooking wooded lot. Located off Woodland. $1,245/mo. Craig, (770) 448-1241.

EAST ATLANTA Great 50's Retro renovated w/today's amenities. Walk to village. 3 BR, 2 BA, LR, DR, Den, Master Suite, laundry rm, deck, yard. $1,075/mo. (404) 252-0284.

EAST LAKE Renov 2 BR, 1 BA house. Hdwd flrs, CAC & heat, LR, DR, bonus room, fenced yard, WD & sec system. Pets OK $990/mo. Stephen (404) 610-0745.

EDGEWOOD / INMAN PARK 1 & 2 BR apts. Near Thumbs Up Diner, renovated, gated, new appliances, hdwd flrs, RAINBOW MANAGEMENT (770) 205-7553.

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MIDTOWN (691 Durant Pl) 1 BR apt, hdwd flrs, fpl, screened porch, OSP, enclosed back yard, WD connections, lrg LR & DR, small office space. $775/mo. Call (404) 325-0738 / (404) 724-0753 / (678) 360-8390 (c).

MIDTOWN (8th & Durant) 2 BR, 1 BA, lrg kit, walk-in closet, upstairs w/hdwd flrs & spanish tile, spacious LR, WD, walk to park! $1,100/mo. (404) 897-5409.

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MIDTOWN 805 Peachtree Lofts 1 BR, 1 BA incl lounge, fitness ctr, 24hr concierge, pool, T1, enclosed prkg. $1,700/mo. (678) 523-4352.

MIDTOWN BEHIND FATMATT RM w/ priv BA. Shr LR & kit. FREE utils & basic CATV! From $120 - $175/weekly. Please call (770) 374-0801.

MIDTOWN NEW LOFT MIDCITYLOFTS, 1000 sqft, upgrades, WD, reserved secured parking, concierge, balcony, rooftop pool, fitness, clubhouse, $1,250/mo. (404) 888-0109, (404) 944-6034.

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Lrg contemporary 1 BR, 1 BA in park front hi-rise. Total renov w/ maple hdwds, designer kit w/ granite/stainless. Balc w/ skyline view. 24/hr doorman, gym, pool & rooftop terrace, custom blinds & drapes. 1 storage space. 1 secured prkg w/ 2nd space avail. $1,200/mo (incl CATV w/ 90 channels). Avail 12/1. For purchase: $219,000. (404) 966-1165.

MORNINGSIDE 750 sqft, 1 BR terrace apt. Hardwood floors. Shower bath. $675/mo + utils. On-street parking. No smokers, no pets. (404) 876-4483.

MORNINGSIDE / LENOX Tranquil intown living. Forget the freeways! Renovated, secluded brick ranch. Magnificent new great room overlooking huge back yard. Lrg new state of the art kit. 2 BR, 1.5 BA, pets OK. $2,550/mo. Marla (678) 851-1151.

MORNINGSIDE Beautifully renov priv carriage house. 1,400 sq ft, unfurn or furn 2 BR, 1.5 BA, skylight, LR w/patio over pool, garage & sec sys, WD, trash compactor. $1,275/mo + utils. Short term lease avail. (404) 872-7011.

NEW HOUSE FOR lease must see! 3 BR, 2.5 BA bath hardwood floors, central air, alarm system, new appliances, garden tub, downtown area. contact HCH (404) 522-3681

NORTH DEKALB MALL 3 BRs, 1 BA, brick. Brand new carpet, super kit, WD, storage, carport. $825/mo. (404) 557-7993.

NORTHLAKE 1 BR, 1 BA new bsmt apt w/plenty of sunlight. Priv driveway & entrance on quiet street. WD, DW, Pergo flrs. No smokers/pets. $675/mo incl utils except phone & cable. Dep req'd. (678) 937-0590.

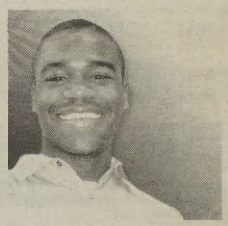
ORMEWOOD PARK
3 BR, 1.5 BA Cape Cod. LR, DR, fpl, hdwd flrs, HVAC. Charming, convenient, great neighborhood, great street. Between Grant Park & East Atlanta Village. $1,200/mo. (404) 627-7937.

ORMEWOOD Rooms for rent. Very nice rooms near Moreland & 120. Phone, WD, kit, refrigerator & new BA. $100/wk + $75 deposit. Call (404) 243-6129.

THE BELVEDERE
(560 Dutch Valley Rd.) 2 BR, 2 BA condo w/ fpl, upgrades galore. Better than new! $1,750/mo. (404) 874-6296 / www.RandalandDavid.com / Atlanta Intown Real Estate Services.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS Beautifully restored 1,600 sqft 1st flr, located in the heart of Va Highland. Lrg BR's with office space. Abundant closets, ample computer, phone, cable outlets. New kit, hdwds throughout, laundry. No smokers/dogs. $1,575/mo. Lynn (404) 256-4891.

RENT / ELSEWHERE



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COLLEGE PARK GF seeks responsible roommate. Large 4 BR house, large yard and deck, very private and quiet. 8 min to downtown, 4 min to airport. Great location! $530/mo. therron1@comcast.net.

DECATUR / DOWNTOWN Prof GWF seeks housemate for 3 BR, 2.5 BA furn (except for avail BR) home. $700/mo. All utils & cable incl. (678) 595-0209. Avail immediately.

DECATUR / OAKHURST Professional GWF seeks roommate for recently renovated 3 BR, 2 BA w/ large deck & fenced backyard. $450/mo + 1/2 utils. NS preferred. (404) 964-8370.

DECATUR BEDROOM & BA in private home; furnished. Seek GM/F employed quiet non-smoker; no drugs/pets/drunks. $500/ mo + 1/2 util. (404) 687-8473.

EAST POINT 3 BR home. Priv RM w/ BA/phone/cable, WD, pool, all amens, MARTA, nice area. $550/mo + dep. Refs req'd. (404) 254-8546.

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MIDTOWN / MALE ROOMMATE NEEDED 12/5 to shr 2 BR, 2 BA apt. Newly renov w/ WD. $469/mo + 1/2 utils. Walking distance to Piedmont Park. I'm clean, laid-back, responsible, 30-something, NS, no pets. Call Robert, (678) 851-4676.

MIDTOWN ROOM AVAIL in beautiful home. No credit check. No deposit. On Marta line. Safe & secure neighborhood. Contact Susan (770) 395-2546 or Rita (770) 395-2625. *Mention the Southern Voice when calling*

NORTHEAST PLAZA BR avail in 2 BR flat, ceil fan, cable, wireless internet, WD. $400/mo + utils. Smoker preferred. (678) 362-6972.

SMYRNA AREA (Near Cumberland Mall) GM seeks roommate to shr, 2 BR, 2 BA condo. $400/mo + utils incl. NS. (770) 436-1577.

STONE MOUNTAIN GWM to share lrg 3 BR, 3.5 BA European country house. Lots of privacy, house borders on nature preserve. Hot tub, 60" screen TV, cable, high-speed internet, security system, utils incl. No smoking. $350/mo includes helping with the upkeep of house & grounds. (770) 493-9555.

SUTTON PLACE Gay community. BR avail, ceiling fan, CATV in 3 BR TH w/WD, kit privileges, pool. $450/mo utils incl + $100/dep. Smokers welcome, no drugs. (404) 315-7392.

LENOX / CHESHIRE BRIDGE area. Close to 85 & 400. Newly renov, 3 BR, 3 BA condo. Pool on property. $600/mo, utils incl. Does not incl personal phone line. GWM couple seeks, neat, clean, responsible, NS, housemate. No pets. Avail 12/1. E-mail or call for more info. Guywitharoom@aol.com / (678) 596-7461.

LAVISTA-N. DRUID-TOCO Share home, 2 BR/BA, A/C, W/D, Fast INET, cable, big yard, good park. Retired builder, good health. $550/mo. Incl. util's. 404-636-0204

COMMITMENT CERMONIES

ANNOUNCE YOUR UNION The Southern Voice is proud to announce the addition of a "Commitment Ceremonies" category to our Classified listings. When making arrangements for your Union, don't forget to include the most important aspect of all...announcing the date. Publishing your union is easy & simple. Call (877) 863-1885 ext 223 to put the finishing touches on your ceremony.

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GEORGIA BABY & KIDS Atlanta's largest juvenile furniture store, needs one more friendly & outgoing salesperson. Earn $32k-50k + health insurance. Fax resume to (770) 448-6925. Norcross location. 5 day work week - weekends required.

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VOLUNTEERS

ATLANTA HARM REDUCTION CENTER is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing info, condoms, referrals & more to the people who are the underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time & energy. For more info write to: AHRC; 1020 DeKalb Ave NE, suite 17; Atl GA 30307 or call (404) 526-9222. Email us Ahraatlanta@juno.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR a study of personality perception sponsored by New Mexico State University. You will be paid $20 for only 20 minuets work! Participants will be video tapped in the ATL area answering ice-breaker type questions. For more info contact crowe617332@yahoo.com. Only need 30 people so don't miss you chance for an easy $20.

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The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of ETHAN GREEN

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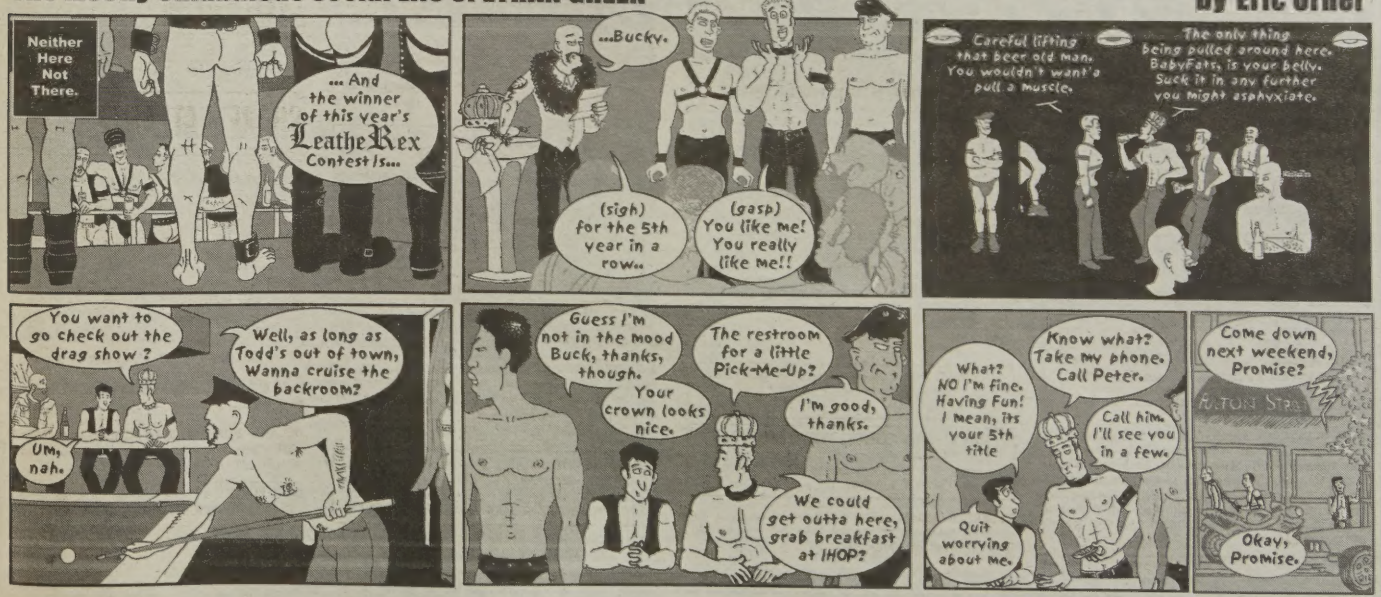
Neither Here Not There.
... And the winner of this year's LeatheRex Contest Is...
...Bucky.
(sigh) for the 5th year in a row..
(gasp) You like me! You really like me!!
Careful lifting that beer old man. You wouldn't want a pull a muscle.
The only thing being pulled around here, BabyFats, is your belly. Suck it in any further you might asphyxiate.
You want to go check out the drag show?
Well, as long as Todd's out of town, Wanna cruise the backroom?
Um, nah.
Guess I'm not in the mood Buck, thanks, though.
Your crown looks nice.
The restroom for a little Pick-Me-Up?
I'm good, thanks.
We could get outta here, grab breakfast at IHOP?
What? NO I'm fine. Having Fun! I mean, its your 5th title
Know what? Take my phone. Call Peter.
Call him. I'll see you in a few.
Quit worrying about me.
Come down next weekend, Promise?
Okay, Promise.

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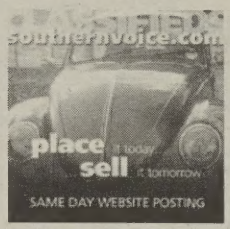

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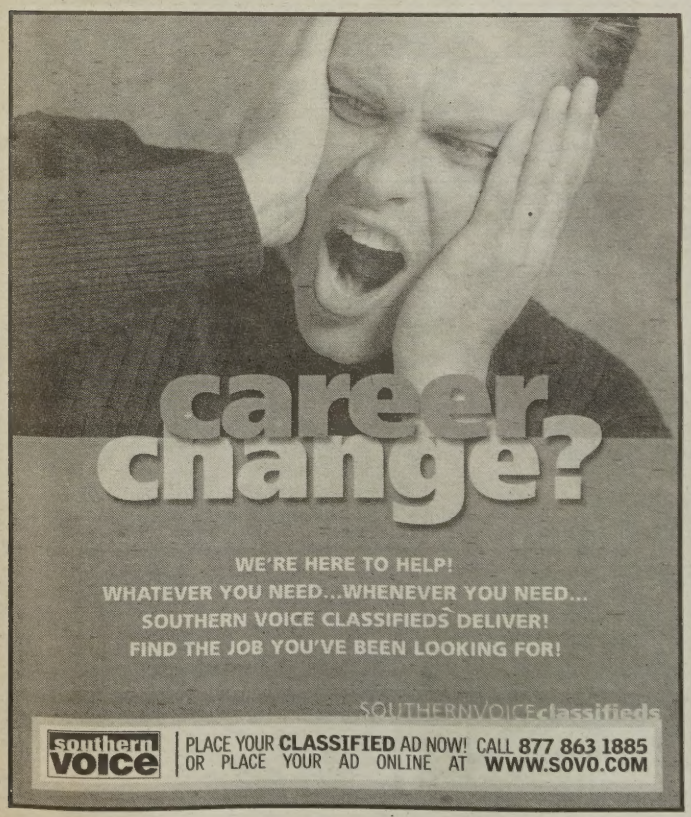
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LOOKS MUCH YOUNGER!
Attractive, outgoing, humorous, intelligent SBM, 49, seeks attractive, sexy, secure, masculine, easygoing man, 25-50, who is a good conversationalist, funny, intelligent, warm, personable, affectionate, drama-free. Atlanta ☎488663

GWM SEEKS CUTE BOY
Male, 29, Gemini, seeks boyish GWM , 18-24, for relationship. Must be cute and D/D-free, for lifetime relationship. Concord ☎768551

HELLO OUT THERE
Loving, fun SM, 49, 5'11", 150lbs, seeks SM similar in age to get to know, share dates, good conversations and life. Richmond Hill ☎772133

LEAVE A MESSAGE!
SBM, 37, 5'5", 150lbs, works in the medical field. Looking for serious B/HM, 25-30, for friendship, maybe more. Atlanta ☎749582

JAZZ FAN
Male, 5'6", 165lbs, HIV+, in good health, enjoys watch wrestling, biking, cooking, playing pool, video games. Would like to meet a similar male who is honest with a good heart. Montgomery ☎739499

MEET, HEAT, PROPULSION
Body proud top man, 38, newly divorced, handsome, buss-built, seeks healthy, non-propositions buddy, 35+, for a meeting of psyche and eros, trust and lust. North of the perimeter, convenient, proximate. ☎784340

EDUCATED, ENERGETIC...
extroverted GWM, 40, 5'9", 135lbs with runner's build, college professor, N/S, dislikes bars. Seeking man, 28-45, N/S, for LTR. Milledgeville ☎759533

YOU DESERVE A BREAK TODAY
SBM, 18, Cancer, N/S, works in fast food, enjoys camping and movies. Seeking WM, 18-35, for LTR. Marietta ☎765932

COMMITMENT & INTELLIGENCE
Male, 38, 5'11", 190lbs, light skin, diesel auto mechanic, with 2 daughters (14 and 7), good build, enjoys jogging, working out, and movies. ISO committed, intelligent male, 25-38, churchgoer. ☎751543

CHATTANOOGA/TRI-STATE
SWM, 49, 5'10", 185lbs, bottom, smoker, nice smile and eyes, seeks man, 45-55, smoker, top, for discreet, casual encounters. Cleveland ☎753043

LET'S TALK
Down-to-earth, laid-back attractive SBM, 30, 5'11", 180lbs, dark complexion, brown eyes, clean-cut, N/S, enjoys travel. Seeking nice, good-hearted SM, 30-35, to share friendship with. ☎601861

SENTIMENTAL & SERIOUS
SWM, 29, 5'11", smoker, registered nurse, loves southern cooking. Seeking WM, 30-45, for LTR. Milton ☎731206

SOMETHING SO RIGHT
SWM, 62, loves to vacation overseas, and is looking for a man who likes his drama in his movies, not in his relationships. Atlanta ☎740153

GIVING GOOD LOVE
Male, 29, new to the area looking for someone to hang out with and get to know. I'm kind of a homebody, and want to meet someone down-to-earth and honest. Atlanta ☎734923

TO THE POINT
SBM, 24, 5'6", 180lbs, athletic build, Scorpio, smoker, seeks BM, 18-38, for friendship, possible romance. Barnwell ☎733361

HOT ATLANTA MAN
in Gwinnett and looking. Tall, attractive GWM, 33, 5'10", 190lbs, dark/hazel, athletic build, seeks someone adventurous, fun, affectionate, romantic guy who loves to play! Duluth ☎729378

LOOK ME UP
Funny, spirited, playful SBM, 30, 6'5", 215lbs, top, works in communications, enjoys movies, dining, people, quality conversations.. Seeking open-minded ,good-hearted guy. Atlanta ☎708592

SPUR-OF-THE MOMENT TYPE
SWM, 33, Gemini, N/S, teaches karate to youngsters, loves baseball. Seeking WM, 25-44, masculine, fit, who works out, for LTR. ☎700092

GOOD-LOOKING STRAIGHT GUY
Genuine, fun-loving, non-scene GWM, 45, 6'1", 200lbs, not into gay life. Looking for romance/true love with similar good-looking, masculine, non-scene, relationship-oriented nice guy who values love and intimacy. ☎749411

NATURE BOY
SWM, 28, wants to meet a man for romantic dining, fishing, camping, and just being together, out among nature. Philadelphia ☎698299

DO YOU ENJOY...
car races? Movies? Shopping? SM, 35, 5'9", 150lbs, brown/blue, moustache, sideburns, goatee, seeks lovable, passionate man who is fun to be with. Gainesville ☎693071

BIG SURPRISES
GWM, 34, 5'5", 155lbs, honest, loyal, witty, intelligent, sensitive, diverse, generous, romantic, simple, complex, loves romantic dinners, beaches, rollerblading, gardening, music, seeking similar GH/WM, 32-45, dating first. Atlanta ☎688083

BETTE MIDDLER FAN
SWM, 36, 5'11", brown/blue, healthy HIV+, average build, Gemini, N/S, in church choir, enjoys romance, comedy, and adventure movies. Seeking man, 30-50. Birmingham ☎685133

MANY TALENTS
Resourceful SM, 37, 6', 195lbs, blond/blue, active in entertainment industry, coffee, reading, movies, music. Would like to meet similar woman to be the love of my life. ☎682784

BEACH LOVER
SBM, 34, slim build, Scorpio, front desk hotel clerk, N/S, loves Kenny Rogers. Seeking man, 28-45, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. ☎648216

I'M YOUR MAN
BiHM, 26, 5'9", 165lbs, black/brown, looking for a nice man, 18-27, for possible relationship. Call me! ☎630077

WELL-ROUNDED VIRGO
SM, 5'5", 130lbs, gorgeous smile, enjoys theater, walks in the park, movies, and cuddling. I'm spiritual, love gospel music and God. Seeking secure man, 18-30, to grow spiritually with. Lake City ☎737124

GOOD RELATIONSHIPS...
are hard to come by. SBM, 40, Capricorn, N/S, enjoys black and white photography and Miami's party scene. Seeking BM, 25-45, for friendship, possible romance. Atlanta ☎726124

PICTURE & GRAPHIC PERFECT
SBM, 39, Virgo, N/S, taking computer courses, enjoys photography. Seeking BM, 23-48, for friendship, possible romance. Huber ☎733115

HONEST AND CARING?
SM, 23, baby blue eyes, loves the water, tanning, having fun, movies. Looking for a trustworthy, sweet, sincere man, 18-35, who will be there for me when times are tough. Columbus ☎718212

I MAKE A GOOD FRIEND
GWM, 41, clean-cut, slim, attractive, looking for Mr. Right, 35-45, to get to know, possible relationship. Serious inquiries only. ☎677798

GOOD OL' BOY DESIRES SAME
SBM, 40, Sagittarius, N/S, loves the camaraderie of playing sports, beaches, and swimming. Seeking BM, 25-46, N/S, for LTR. Atlanta ☎705553

GWM SEEKS GBM
Attractive GWM, 55, 5'9", 150lbs, HIV negative, N/S, with varied interests, seeks honest, loving LTR with mature GBM, 50-62, N/Drugs, no drama. Atlanta. ☎688606

GRAVEYARD SHIFT WORKER
SBM, 40, 5'9", 195lbs, financial company systems operator, Virgo, smoker, loves jazz and R&B music. Seeking man, 38-55, for LTR. ☎657070

SO YOU'D RATHER BE ALONE?
Sure, placing a personal ad might seem out of character for you. But there you are, a single, attractive, intelligent, open-minded person who's fun to be with, reading them. Just like the thousands of other people reading these ads. Why not take the first step and get to know them? Place an ad and start meeting whom you want to meet. We'll even let you know when you have messages. Just call the Membership line to find out how!

GENT WITH BRAIDS
SBM, 20, 6', 190lbs, working in medical field, Taurus, N/S, love Chinese cuisine. Seeking open-minded, down-to-earth man, 18-29, for friendship and beyond. ☎698657

GELLIN' LIKE A FELON
SBM, 6'3", 195lbs, brown-eyed, somewhat hirsute Aries, N/S, seeks BM, 18-45, for clubs, movies, bowling. ☎699678

LIBRA SEEKS BALANCE
SBM, 20, with a wonderful smile, wants to meet a top man who is mature, honest and looking for a loving relationship. Atlanta ☎697627

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
GBM, 20, 5'9", 160lbs, attractive, intelligent, likes movies, dancing, music, travel, sports. Seeking GM, 21-26, with similar qualities and interests. ☎678134

JUST THE TWO OF US
GWM, 50, 5'9", 160lbs, likes travel, long walks, dining out, movies, jogging. Seeking romantic, old-fashioned GM, 40-53. ☎679721

SEEKING MAN TO BLOW...
my mind away. SHM, 21, Leo, smoker, bottom versatile, loves gazing at the city lights at night. Seeking BM, 20-29, for friendship, possible romance. ☎654309

GOOD TIMES
SWM, 57, would like to meet a WM, 18-70, for fun times together, maybe more. I like fishing, hunting, flea markets, walks on the beach, holding hands. Chesnee ☎639742

SEXY GUY!
SWM, 38, hoping to meet another sexy guy for possible relationship. Talk to you soon! Winston ☎640893

SPIRITUALLY GROUNDED
Male, 22, 5'3", 140lbs, loving, caring, understanding, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, dedicated Gemini, loves the Lord, taking chances. Seeking outgoing, outspoken, adventurous, spontaneous, dependent top. Buford ☎645138

EVER AFTER
GBM, 43, looking for a partner I can share a romantic, caring, and affectionate relationship with. Decatur ☎645418

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎959031

COP AND A GENTLEMAN
SBM, 44, 6'1", 216lbs, athletic build, short black/brown (sometimes wears glasses), sincere, caring, easygoing, Taurus, N/S, enjoys cooking, plays. Seeking kind, sensitive, homebody type, 20-42. Macon ☎509684

LOOKING FOR YOU
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎959072

SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎959035

LOOKING FOR LOVE
I'm a 21 W/HM in Athens and am looking for a new male-on-male relationship to kick off the college year. I love sports and hanging out. ☎698822

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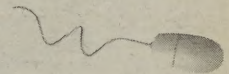

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Women Seeking Women

IN PURSUIT...
of you! SWF, 40, seeks spontaneous, secure female runner, 35-40 with values, for friendly competition and relationship. Flowery Branch ☎771106

I CAN LOVE YOU BETTER
SWF, 38, 5'2", 100lbs, brown/brown, Aquarius, smoker, enjoys camping, occasional clubbing, and movies. Seeking WF, 28-43, smoker, employed and drama-free. ☎761193

WHY NOT TRY ME?
SF, 34, enjoys travel, movies, dancing, swimming, reading. Looking for easy-going, child friendly SBF, who enjoys the same, for lasting friendship and more. Atlanta ☎769805

YOUR GREATEST HIT
SWF, 52, young-looking, two dogs and cats, loves cooking, being at home, occasionally going out, nice conversations. Seeking honest, sincere SBF, 47-57, friendship comes first. Stockbridge ☎794351

TRY THIS ONE
Discreet, good-humored, active WPF, 42, 5'8", attractive, seeks similar, passionate SWF, 32-52, N/S, H/W proportionate for friendship and more. Duluth ☎770756

KIND AND SPIRITUAL
Fun SBF, 32, grad student, loves the beach, nature, serene and peaceful environments, the gym, intellectual conversations. Seeking SF, 25-40, who is gentle, caring, warm, honest. Atlanta ☎692602

HELLO LADIES
SBF, 19, 5'3", 130lbs, mother, sexy and feminine enjoys movies, mall, parks, more. Looking for mature, sexy, spontaneous woman to share friendship and all life offers. Atlanta ☎791603

NICE & SENSUOUS
Sophisticated, attractive, feminine SBPF, 33, N/S, seeks intelligent, stable, classy soft stud BPF, 34-50, N/S, N/Drugs, no games. Atlanta ☎768831

ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY
GBPF, 52, seeks GPF, 45-60, for above average connection. Do you enjoy travel, arts, sports? Are you a N/S with a sense of humor? Call now for an extraordinary relationship! Atlanta ☎777766

ISO ATTRACTIVE FEMME
SBF, 41, single parent, new from New Jersey, Taurus, smoker, seeks BF, 28-45, N/S, with whom to chill. Bra #2 ☎750633

DON'T FORGET SUNSCREEN
SBF, 23, affectionate college student, N/S, seeks woman, 19-30, who loves beach walks, very outgoing. ☎756080

TO FIND A FRIEND...
be a friend. SBF, 31, 5'3", Capricorn, N/S, enjoys stargazing, watching sports, and long walks. Seeking BF, 30-35, just as a friend. ☎763385

LOOKING FOR SOME HOT FUN
SWF, 23, Atlanta native, passionate, sensual, true Scorpio, loves animals, wine, exercising, traveling, reading, night time, dancing, cooking. Seeking genuine, feminine, adventurous SW/HF, 18-40, LTR. ☎764126

LOOKING 4 U
SWF, 41, ER tech, nursing student, loves traveling, movies, cuddling, hanging out with someone special. Seeking affectionate, drama-less, cool SWF, 36-46, for nice times, possibly more. Griffin ☎759232

SEEKING MISS RIGHT
Pretty, GBPF, 36, 5'5", 135lbs, loves movies, plays, sporting events, quiet times at home. Seeking GF, 33-45, for dating, N/S, D/D-free. Marietta ☎796332

THE SWEETEST THING
Feminine SBF, 21, is in search of friendship, companionship and above all, honesty, from a great woman. Atlanta ☎742300

NO DRAMA
BF, 5'9", 165lbs, brown/brown, looking for someone who wants friendship first, maybe later leading to LTR. Columbus ☎737795

LEVEL-HEADED
SBF, 31, loving, honest, trustworthy, with pretty baby face, Cancer, N/S, very affectionate, seeks BF, 24-36, slim-medium build, N/S. Marietta ☎728596

ONE DAY AT A TIME
Feminine SBPF, 33, mother, in search of real woman, 25-40, who is special in her own way. Good friends, good times, possible relationship. I love music, dancing, singing, bowling, fishing. Rex ☎717253

LOOK OUT, PLANETS...
here we come. SBF, 31, 5'3", dimples, Capricorn, smoker, loves impromptu traveling and stargazing. Seeking BF, 30-35, for friendship, possible romance. ☎700556

A LOT TO OFFER
GWF, 29, 5'3", 140lbs, brown/brown, enjoys travel, reading, movies, the beach. Seeking outgoing, caring GF, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎673472

SCORPIO SINGLE MOM
GWF, 30, 5'5", 160lbs, brown/brown, butch, seeks feminine, congenial GWF, for friendship, fun, conversation, possible LTR. Take a chance. Duluth ☎622810

SPIRITUALLY CENTERED
Mature, straight-forward GPF, 42, enjoys simple life of quality vs. quantity, seeks same, enjoys good conversation, cultural events, reading, companionship. Friendship first and when it's meant to be, maybe more. ☎288400

COMPLETE THIS PICTURE
SF, 36, 5'8", 165lbs, with curves, loves Birmingham, sightseeing, movies, quiet times. Seeking a female for friendship or whatever else it leads to. ☎695974

IN BRIEF
SBF, 30, Cancer, N/S, watches sports, enjoys movies and shopping. Seeking BF, 22-30. ☎706085

LET'S TEAM UP!
SBF, 30, attractive, residing in Atlanta, interested in meeting attractive, feminine female, 18-40, for friendship, conversation, possibly dating. Pool fan a plus. Casual drinker. ☎695544

THE HUMAN TOUCH
SBF, 30, 5'8", shoulder-length hair, Aquarius, N/S, seeks a kind, caring, easygoing BF, 28-35, N/S, for friendship. ☎652313

LOW-KEYED TYPE
SBF, 37, 5'5", 190lbs, brown/brown, with background in business management, N/S, seeks a very genuine woman, 35-55, N/S, soft butch or stud a+. Smyrna ☎727209

TRUTH SEEKER
Fun-loving, attractive GWF, 40, looking for her soulmate, a woman 36-47, race doesn't matter, heart does. You must enjoy laughing and be willing to forgive. Atlanta ☎738063

VERY LAID-BACK
SBF, 42, Virgo, smoker, seeks a low-keyed woman, 34-60, femme preferred, single mother ok. Atlanta ☎705621

NO DRAMA
GWF, 39, 5'5", 140lbs, brown/brown, fun-loving, seeks a simple, non-complicated friendship with GF, H/W proportionate, to have fun with, possible romance. ☎675821

I'M THE ONE FOR YOU
GWF, 43, likes walks in the park, social gatherings, classical music, movies. Would like to meet a spiritual, honest, fun-loving GF, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Birmingham ☎661686

VERY OUTGOING
Loving, fun-loving GBF, 19, single mom, likes bowling, dancing, movies, skating, romantic evenings. Seeking attractive, honest GF with similar interests. Atlanta ☎669828

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Feminine SF, 23, passionate about communication, movies, romance, snuggling. Seeking intelligent, employed, independent, romantic lady who knows how to live life. Atlanta ☎708443

ALONE BUT NOT LONELY
GBF, 44, full-figured, seeks SGF, 40-60, emotionally secure and not into drama, who enjoys quiet times and stimulating conversation, for friendship. No bisexuals please. Sandy Springs. Atlanta ☎554779

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LET'S CELEBRATE AUTUMN
SBF, 43, 5'5", 145lbs, looking for a down-to-earth woman who is not into head games. Let's share fall and the rest of the seasons together! Jacksonville ☎693877

LOOKING FOR LASTING LOVE
SWPF, 36, 5'3", medium build, enjoys working out, movies, cooking, music, travel. Seeking very romantic gentleman to enjoy life with. ☎677774

GREAT PERSONALITY
Athletic, outgoing GWPF, 36, likes kayaking, travel, movies, reading, the arts. Seeking similar GF who is active in her community. ☎678935

EYE CONTACT
Feminine, attractive GWF, 22, beautiful eyes and smile, likes music, bowling, movies. Seeking attractive GF, 21-30. Single moms welcome. ☎681709

HARD-WORKING, OUTGOING...
spontaneous SBF, 22, 5'5", average build, Libra, N/S, loves action and romantic movies. Seeking woman, 18-35, for friendship, possible romance. ☎653672

Just Friends

GIVE IT A SHOT!
Down-to-earth woman, 32, N/D, N/S, in search of submissive female, 30-40, N/S, for fun times together. Atlanta ☎722145

GET YOUR FREAK ON
SM, 19, 5'9", hazel green eyes, braids, caramel complexion, seeks freaky guy, 18-47, for fun times together. Centerville Branch ☎719354

SEEKS FRIENDS
GBF, 42, seeks GF, 35-45, who's professional, spiritual, and feminine, for friendship. No smokers, BI's, drugs or alcoholics. Stone Mountain ☎422721

MY PARTNER AND I...
recently relocated to Atlanta, and are seeking other females with whom to form a friendship, network, social group. Arlington ☎461866

TV/TS

"GIRL" OF MY DREAMS
SWM, 21, 6', blond/blue, Taurus, smoker, seeks a transgendered woman, 20-28, for LTR. ☎704270

SWM SEEKS GIRLY BOY
SWM, 5'6", attractive, well-built, seeks relationship with thin, petite, smooth Hispanic/Asian transsexual, 20+. Serious inquiries. No men. Decatur ☎658793

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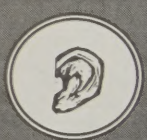

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